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FBIS-EAS-90-006 9 January 1991

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Japan

Foreign Minister To Begin Moscow Visit 21 Jan

OW0801235091 Tokyo KYODO in English 2319 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will go to Moscow on January 21 and will meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev two days later for talks on his trip to Japan in April, Foreign Ministry officials said early Wednesday morning.

The officials said Nakayama will also meet his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze on January 22 and 23. Shevardnadze announced his resignation in December but his successor is still unknown.

Nakayama and his counterpart will discuss bilateral relations, including the territorial dispute over four islands off northern Japan held by the Soviets, as well as international developments to fully prepare for Gorbachev's Tokyo visit.

He is expected to tell the Soviet leadership that Japan intends to improve bilateral relations through Gorbachev's visit to Tokyo, ministry sources said.

Nakayama will also discuss with the Soviets details of various documents and agreements, some of them providing for Japanese technical assistance for Gorbachev's perestroyka or economic restructuring program, which are expected to be signed while Gorbachev is in Japan, the sources said.

Historian Says Gorbachev To Bring POW List

OW0901115191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will bring lists of 38,000 deceased Japanese detained as prisoners of war at labor camps in the Soviet Union after the end of World War II when he visits Japan in April, a Soviet historian said Wednesday.

Aleksey Kirichenko, a senior official at the Oriental Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said Gorbachev will bring the documents totaling some 2,000 pages to hand over to both the Japanese Government and a group of former Japanese detainees at Soviet camps. Kirichenko, regarded as an aide to Gorbachev's close ally Yevgeniy Primakov, is working as a negotiator on the case with the Japanese detainees' group based in Tsuruoka, Yamagata Prefecture, in his capacity as a representative of a Soviet civic amity group.

Last year, the Soviet historian, along with Soviet Red Cross officials, told a Tokyo symposium that nearly 600,000 Japanese, mostly soldiers but also some civilians, were taken to Soviet camps, mostly in Siberia. They engaged in railroad construction and other forms of physical labor, and a total of nearly 60,000 died, according to Kirichenko. Some of them were sent to Mongolia and their remains have not been returned to Japan with the exception of a few high-ranking commanders.

Kirichenko, who arrived in Japan for a visit Wednesday, also said the Soviet side is ready to hand over to Japan documents containing personal data of all the Japanese prisoners of war, four million pieces of personal belongings, and diaries, paintings, and art works by the Japanese detainees. He said handing over the massive materials is not possible by the time Gorbachev visits Japan, but that all will be sent back to Japan sometime after the presidential trip.

Kirichenko also said Soviet authorities will issue labor certificates to the Japanese detainees to serve as the basis for claiming compensation by the Japanese Government as required under International Law since Japan renounced wartime claims from the Soviets in a 1956 bilateral joint declaration. He said certificates are also to be issued for those detained in the former Japanese territories of Southern Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands in addition to other Soviet places.

Soviet Camera Crew Arrives for POW Documentary

OW0901113991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Yamagata, Jan. 9 KYODO—A Moscow-based television crew arrived here Wednesday for a 10-day tour of Japan to film part of a documentary on Japanese detained for forced labor in the Soviet Union after the end of World War II.

On Thursday, the television team will visit Tsuruoka, Yamagata Prefecture, in northern Japan, which is the base of the Former Internees Association, a group of former Japanese detainees seeking compensation for their forced labor. The group last year concluded an agreement with a Soviet amity organization that included handing over lists of deceased Japanese detainees.

At the close of the war in 1945, Soviet troops took hostage nearly 600,000 Japanese as prisoners of war, primarily soldiers stationed in then Manchuria in northeastern China, northern Korea, or Sakhalin after invading these areas despite the bilateral neutrality pact's being still effective then. Soviet historians said last year that nearly 60,000 Japanese prisoners died while detained as forced labor in Siberia and other places. Some were taken to Mongolia, Moscow's communist ally.

In Tsuruoka, the Soviet television crew will meet with Hisashi Ueno, 62, whose lower body was paralyzed following an injury sustained while he was forced to work in a stone pit in the Soviet far eastern city of Khabarovsk, the Japanese group said.

Ueno said he now is ready to accept an interview with the Soviet TV crew, recalling memories at a Khabarovsk

hospital where many of his fellow Japanese detainees "died of hunger in the cold like ice bars."

The Soviet film crew is scheduled to visit Hokkaido, Nagoya, and Maizuru in Kyoto, where there is a museum for the detainees. It will also visit Matsuyama, which has tombs of Russian soldiers from the 1904-1905 war between Japan and the Soviet Union, as well as Kumamoto and Tokyo before returning home on January 21. The documentary is to be aired sometime in March in both countries.

Itoh Signs Barter Accord With Soviet Firms

OW0901114491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1104 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—One of Japan's giant trading houses, C. Itoh and Co., said Wednesday it has agreed with two Soviet firms to export electric appliances and other consumer goods in exchange for crude oil.

The Soviet concerns involved in the barter deal are Soyuznefteeksport, the Soviet corporation specializing in crude oil exports, and Sakhalin Offshore Oil and Gas Co.

Spokesmen for C. Itoh said their company will begin shipment of goods such as electric appliances, autos, and textile products in mid-January to the Soviet Far East island of Sakhalin. Such goods will be paid for in part by proceeds from 16,000 tons of Sakhalin oil imported by C. Itoh last October from Soyuznefteeksport, they said.

The 9 million dollar deal is the first of its kind under a new Soviet trade system giving local corporations leeway to export their products, the spokesmen said. Previously, Soviet central concerns had the exclusive right to export products under the centralized economic system.

Socialist Party Leader Departs Tokyo for Baghdad

OW0901065391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0528 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairwoman Takako Doi, leading a six-member delegation, departed Wednesday for Baghdad in an eleventh hour bid to urge Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to seek a peaceful resolution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

After a stop in Paris, Doi and the delegation hope to meet Iraqi leaders January 12-14, the eve of the January 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The trip is an effort to avoid a military confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational force assembled in the Gulf.

In a statement before her departure from Narita airport, Doi said she felt the need to go to Baghdad since questions persist about Japan's lack of action in resolving the Gulf standoff. "We want to urge the complete withdrawal from Kuwait and peaceful resolution of the Palestinian problem," said the chairwoman of Japan's leading opposition party. "I'm not sure what kind of influence this will have on this tense situation, but I believe in the reason and wisdom of people and will give my utmost efforts," Doi said.

Baghdad officials have given no indication they will meet the JSP delegation, although Doi on Sunday expressed her desire to talk with Husayn to the Iraqi ambassador to Japan, Rashid al-Rifai. In Paris, Doi is scheduled to meet French President Francois Mitterrand, who has mounted his own peace initiative, offering an international conference on the Palestinian problem as an incentive for Husayn's withdrawal from Kuwait. The six-member delegation, including JSP Vice Chairwoman Sanae Kubota, is scheduled to return to Tokyo on January 16.

Foreign Ministry To Investigate Gulf Aid Issue

OW0801124991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry will send a survey mission to Finland, Sweden, and the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Wednesday to look into how Japan can better contribute to U.N. peace-keeping operations, a spokesman for the ministry said Tuesday.

Press Secretary Taizo Watanabe told reporters that the four- person mission, which will stay abroad until January 20, will examine "various possible means of cooperation by Japan with peace-keeping activities of the United Nations." The group will visit Finland and Sweden January 9-16. Japan has consulted before with Scandinavian countries on U.N. activities owing to their wealth of experience.

Watanabe said the move "is part of the preparatory activities being conducted by the government...for a new legal framework (for participation in such activities) to be completed in the coming session of the Diet," he said. The government's first proposal, which had envisioned the inclusion of Self-Defense Force personnel in a so-called U.N. Peace Cooperation Corps, was withdrawn from the Diet before it came to a vote due to strong opposition and a dearth of support—even from within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. A new proposal is currently in the making.

The government had hoped the initially proposed bill could be completed in time for Japan to send personnel to the Persian Gulf so that Japan could be seen to be making a contribution to international efforts there. But the next bill will most likely focus on a major Japanese contribution to United Nations operations in Cambodia in the event a cease-fire arrangement can be reached among the four warring factions.

Kaifu, Nakayama Planning Visits To PRC

OW0901034791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Japan, seeking to repair relations with China strained since the June 1989 Tiananmen Square incident, will work toward a visit to China in May by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, a top Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The Japanese Government is also looking at a visit in March by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, the official added.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto arrived in Beijing for a four-day visit to become the first Japanese cabinet minister to visit China for talks with Chinese officials since the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

Kosuke Hori, then education minister, visited Beijing last September to represent Japan at the opening of the Asian Games but did not have talks with Chinese officials because Japan suspended exchanges of high level government officials with China after the Tiananmen incident. Japan also suspended an 810 billion yen loan package but unfreezed the loan last fall because government officials thought there was no diplomatic advantage in isolating forever a giant neighbor like China.

Foreign Ministry sources said the government is keeping in mind the Japanese Diet schedule and are considering having Kaifu visit during early May, when the Japanese lawmakers will be in recess for a string of national holidays.

Kaifu and Nakayama are expected to exchange views with Chinese leaders regarding developments in the Asia-Pacific region, especially on the Korean peninsula. In the last six months of last year, South Korea normalized relations with Moscow and opened a trade office in Beijing, while North Korea moved to improve relations with Japan.

Last November, Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian extended invitations to visit China to Kaifu and Nakayama while he was in Tokyo.

Hashimoto To Confirm PRC Stance on Gulf Crisis

OW0801150591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1447 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto plans to sound out China on its stance concerning the Gulf crisis and inform the United States of the results following his four-day visit here, a Japanese Government official said Tuesday. The official told Japanese reporters travelling with the finance minister that Washington has asked Tokyo to inform it of details of Hashimoto's meetings with Chinese leaders.

Hashimoto is slated to meet with Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Bingqian.

If Hashimoto confirms Beijing's readiness to support the West if the situation in the Middle East changes dramatically, Japan will speak on its behalf to other Group of Seven nations at a G-7 meeting later this month, the official said on condition of anonymity. Such an appeal, the official said, could help China normalize its relations with major Western nations.

The seven industrial nations agreed at the 1989 Paris summit to ban official contacts with China in protest of Beijing's military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations at Tiananmen Square in June 1989. The Tiananmen incident led many countries to cut off aid to China. But Japan has moved ahead of other G-7 nations in resuming official aid to China with resumption of its 810 billion yen loan program.

Ministers Discuss Tasks Facing Reshuffled Cabinet

OW0601134591 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Roundtable discussion entitled "We Hear From New Cabinet Members—Tasks Facing the Second Reshuffled Kaifu Cabinet;" participants are Taro Nakayama, foreign minister; Ryutaro Hashimoto, finance minister; Motoji Kondo, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries; Eiichi Nakao, minister of international trade and industry; Akira Fukida, home affairs minister; Yukihiko Ikeda, director general of the Defense Agency; Mamoru Nishida, director general of the National Land Agency; and Misoji Sakamoto, chief cabinet secretary; moderated by NHK commentator Korehito Obama; on 5 January at the NHK studio in Tokyo—recorded]

[Text] [Obama] [Video shows Obama seated at the left facing the eight ministers who are seated separately with small individual tea tables in front of them] Happy New Year! The second reshuffled Kaifu Cabinet was inaugurated at the end of last year—on 29 December. When a new Cabinet is inaugurated, the phrase tough embarkation is often used, and I believe there is no other cabinet that better suits this phrase than the latest Cabinet. In the Gulf situation, the deadline set by the United Nations for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, 15 January, is near at hand. By April this year U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev are scheduled to visit Japan in rapid succession. While the international situation is undergoing rapid changes, Japan, on the other hand, is being pressed to draw conclusions on the question of how to manage the economy and on the opening of the rice market, a pending issue, at a time when the Uruguay Round is drawing to its final stage. On top of this, while there are as many as eight electoral constituencies where the gap of one ballot stands at more than three times, political reform will brook no time wasted. In addition, this

Cabinet must resolve such numerous problems as the land issue and how to review the consumption tax.

Today we have eight Cabinet members with us here and I will ask them about these questions. First, I want to address this question to all eight ministers: What is the issue or issues which you want to resolve during your tenure, or what is the issue or issues with which you want to come to grips, at least, with everything in your power if finding a resolution difficult? Would you please cite one or two such issues?

Foreign Minister Nakayama, would you go ahead first, please?

[Nakayama] This year Japanese diplomacy faces several big tasks just as Mr. Obama mentioned. First, the question which I think I must resolve by all means is to help make successful President Bush's visit to Japan and also President Gorbachev's visit to Japan. At this juncture, when new history is in the making, the presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union will be in Japan. The Japanese Government wants to conduct successfully the exchanges of views with the top leaders on making a new international community. As for President Gorbachev's visit, we hope we will be able to utilize this visit to make a breakthrough with regard to a solution of the pending territories issue.

[Obama] Finance Minister Hashimoto, what do you think is the most important task for you?

[Hashimoto] Because formulating the budget was completed without hindrance toward the end of last year, I want above all to enable the fiscal 1991 budget to be enacted at the earliest possible date at the Diet when it reopens its session. In addition, I want to strive to help tax system reform, including the consumption tax, take root more firmly and make efforts in reviewing the tax system pertaining to land within the limits of the role played by taxes, putting it in the overall picture of the land policy. I sincerely hope to put it on the right track somehow. Until just before the Diet reopens its session, I will be visiting China on 8 January and I believe that the G-7 will meet. Japan will strive to contribute to the world economy through stable economic management in the international economic situation. Therefore, I want Japan's efforts to be understood thoroughly by other countries. These are what I have in mind.

[Obama] Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Kondo, what do you think is the most important task for you?

[Kondo] As the moderator, Mr. Obama, mentioned earlier, the Uruguay Round is my immediate task and I intend to do everything in my power to address it. At a time when the rural community is losing its vitality, finding it dfficult to bring up successors, I think I will have to do my level best to develop towns and villages into a rural community provided with dreams by combining the maintenance of the living environment with the efforts hitherto exerted to increase productivity. In the forestry sector, on the other hand, I must also grapple with a new task: improving the management of state-owned forests. The fisheries sector, as you all know, has been put in a very tough situation since the adoption of the 200-nautical-mile zones. In this connection, I believe I must think about ways to make better use of the zones within the 200-nautical-mile limit and I will do my best in that regard.

[Obama] Minister of International Trade and Industry Nakao, how about you?

[Nakao] I think that the trade issue—this naturally includes international trade—is the most important task that I must address. Therefore, I will have to pay my deepest attention to the Uruguay Round, which is the most pressing task for me for now. At the same time, I will have to pay attention to ways of promoting harmony and balance between large businesses and small and medium businesses, including the issue involving the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law, as well as a way of leading them to further vitalization. I have another task. For the past two centuries no one has thought about it but these environmental problems have kept accumulating, thereby deteriorating the global environment since the coal age. How to address this problem is a question on which all countries of the world must ponder together. In this respect, I think that my ministry must also act as a point of contact. This is a busy time for addressing domestic and external problems, and I have a lot of homework to do. Therefore, I think I will have to be serious in coming to grips with those problems.

[Obama] How about you, Home Affairs Minister Fukida?

[Fukida] As you know, my duty centers around domestic administration. Because the key to domestic administration lies in local autonomy, I think my task is to help local governments become independent. It has been long since the term, an age of local administration, was first used, but we have to make this a reality and carry it into practice in the nineties. My predecessor home affairs ministers have been taking measures to help hometowns [furusato] develop themselves independently under the so-called Furusato Development Program. This is one area. The other, as Finance Minister Hashimoto has mentioned, is that we must think about assets including land prices and taxation. Because this question involves the Home Affairs Ministry, I think I will have to address it steadily. However, the most important task is, as was mentioned earlier, so-called political reform. This political reform is basic for politics. Classifying it in large categories, it entails two questions—those of the election system and political funds. I think I must have these questions answered and enacted into law at an early date, while obtaining the understanding and cooperation of the opposition parties. However, the package of recommendations presented by the deliberative council does not necessarily accord with what the opposition parties have in mind. Therefore, I will have to start talking with the opposition from now on. Because this is

a very important question, I think I will have to do my best. If I am permitted to add one more thing, I concurrently hold the post of chairman of the National Public Safety Commission. As you know, the question of public safety at home, the question of preventing juvenile delinquencies and various other problems, have come to the fore. So, I want to address these questions with all my energies.

[Obama] Defense Agency Director General Ikeda, what are the tasks with which you must grapple? Please cite one or two.

[Ikeda] Toward the end of last year the new Mid-Term Defense Buildup Program was formulated and adopted. It is a program which sets forth how Japan's defense capabilities should be built up over the next five years. This is the first year in that program. Although the international situation is changing so drastically, the supreme goal is to safeguard the security of our country and to maintain the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] in a restrained but appropriate manner. Another important task is to maintain and promote the trust in the Japanese-U.S. security structure, the other big pillar of Japan's security. In any case, I think it is my basic task to enable the public to realize thoroughly the importance of national defense, or security, and win its confidence.

[Obama] National Land Agency Director General Nishida, how about you?

[Nishida] The National Land Agency is a government agency about which the public cherishes its dream. To help the public put that dream into concrete shape, I intend to promote programs vigorously while coordinating with the pertinent ministries and agencies properly. I have three basic goals. They are: first, to build national land into a pleasant and agreeable lot; second, to make national land affluent and vital; and third, to build national land into an attractive entity provided with beautiful humanity and culture. These are my basic goals. I have important, urgent tasks that I must carry out in the domestic administrative area. The land issue, I think, tops them all. I will have to bring down land prices to appropriate levels. As indicated in the Fourth Comprehensive National Land Development Plan, efforts should be made to develop national land in a more balanced way by doing away with the unipolarization phenomenon. The development of water resources and disaster prevention measures to protect the nation's lives and property comes next. I intend to do my best, keeping these tasks in mind.

[Obama] So far we have heard about respective tasks from seven Cabinet members. Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto, what are the goals of the second reshuffled Kaifu Cabinet?

[Sakamoto] Mr. Obama asked everyone here to bring up one or two tasks faced by that individual, and everyone did so. From my position, all the tasks mentioned are important. They are all too important to rank them. There may be a little difference in the degree of importance in terms of timing but they are all important tasks. In the Meiji Era, Japan ran up the hill to grab the clouds overhead in pursuit of modernization. In the postwar period, we rose up from that fiasco, upholding the principles of liberty and democracy. Now, it is an era for the third opening of the country. The world is directing its attention to Japan, which has grown so much. Therefore, it is impossible for the Cabinet to face only one or two tasks. [laughter] It faces numerous tasks. So, the Cabinet will devote all its energy to addressing those tasks. As the moderator mentioned, there was a time when each Cabinet member was said to have one job to accomplish. However, this is inconceivable now. This is not an age like that. I am not Musashi Miyamoto [a famous swordsman in the early Edo Era] but I hope that our Cabinet will strive to have nothing to repent for later. Because overall coordination is my job, I hope to obtain everyone's cooperation in forming a united Cabinet and carrying out its tasks with nothing to repent for later.

[Obama] Well, I will now ask you ministers about concrete issues. I am addressing this question concerning the Gulf situation to the foreign minister first. On the approaching date of 9 January, U.S. Secretary of State Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister 'Aziz are scheduled to meet in Switzerland. Will the result of this meeting be moves toward a peaceful solution once and for all? What is your outlook?

[Nakayama] The fact that the Iraqi Government accepted the proposed talks with Secretary of State Baker is a significant step, I think. However, since the Iraqi Government still maintains a very strong posture, I hope that Iraq will come to agree, as a result of the meeting, to withdraw from Kuwait at the earliest possible date in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the desire of the international community, and that the legitimate government of Kuwait will be restored and the United States and Iraq will move toward peace through their talks on issues pending in the area.

[Obama] Although a step forward has been made, you still feel that you do not have a clear outlook?

[Nakayama] That is correct.

[Obama] I now address this question to the chief cabinet secretary. In connection with the Gulf situation, the proposed UN Peace Cooperation Bill has been discarded. The Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] have reached an agreement to create a new organization in the place of this bill that will pave the way for Japan's participation in UN peacekeeping operations. Which ministry or agency will play a central role in drafting the bill pertaining to this issue and how soon do you think it will be introduced to the Diet?

[Sakamoto] I think that the Foreign Ministry, which has the capability to be an actual working force, should play

a central role. The task involves analyzing the international situation and other problematic points, as well as liaison work with all other ministries and agencies and various secondary duties. Only a large force can demonstrate the capabilities needed for this task. Of course, my job as the chief cabinet secretary is overall coordination. Therefore, the Foreign Ministry will play a primary role in drafting the bill in cooperation with all other ministries and agencies. I will then read it and make adjustments. This is the usual practice. However, I think that it will be too late if we follow this practice. I think it will be better to adjust while drafting and draft while making adjustments. In that sense, I think that I will have to lend an active helping hand. I think this way will work better.

[Obama] How soon do you think it will be drafted?

[Sakamoto] Since an agreement has been reached among the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP, I think that if a rough outline is to be worked out, it should be done through this agreement. If we should be asked for consultation, we will express our view. The government has a basic position in the interpretation of the Constitution. In this sense, it may be all right for parties to take initiative in the Diet. However, I think that the government will be thankful if it is allowed to indicate what the bottom line will be and then draft any bill together with these parties.

[Obama] Mr. Foreign Minister, do you agree with this?

[Nakayama] Yes, I agree with what he says.

[Obama] How soon do you hope to finish drafting the bill?

[Nakayama] First of all, as it has just been noted, there is a memorandum of agreement between the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP. I think it will be important for the officials in charge of policy affairs for these three parties to consult with one another on what concrete form the bill should take. In the course of this consultation, the Foreign Ministry hopes to make a study, taking the contents of the consultation among the three parties into full consideration.

[Obama] Well, let us move on to the Uruguay Round issue. I wish to address this question to the minister of international trade and industry. If the Uruguay Round is not settled, then protectionism will emerge. This will create the danger of Japan becoming a major victim. How do you intend to deal with the Uruguay Round in the future?

[Nakao] As you are aware, the Uruguay Round was inaugurated to provide a forum where nations could discuss how to review the world trading system to ensure better cooperation. In this regard, Japan in principle cannot survive in a state of isolation from the rest of the world. Japan, with no natural resources, has developed as it is. Although the United States is said to have entered a recession, Japan can still be sustained. Needless to say, international cooperation is necessary to maintain the economic system that has led to prosperity in Japan. Among other things, therefore, what Japan must bear in mind is that it should not isolate itself from the international community. Japan must fulfill its share of responsibility for international cooperation. As far as the Uruguay Round is concerned, there is a major promise that negotiations be settled before 1 March. Under these circumstances, I believe that Japan's prosperity cannot be brought about without international cooperation. I will do my best in various ways to lay a foundation for cooperating with the other nations of the world, adopting an attitude of cooperation with the international community.

[Obama] I would like to ask you the next question, Mr. Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. The minister of international trade and industry has just stated that Japan should attach importance to cooperation with other nations. It is said that Japan should make some sort of decision on opening the rice market to settle the Uruguay Round negotiations. What do you think?

[Kondo] I share the view of the minister of international trade and industry on the need to cooperate with other nations in the Uruguay Round. As you know, where agricultural issues are concerned, all areas and countries have their own individual problems. There is a surcharge system in the European Community and the Waiver Clause in the United States. In their long history, these areas and countries have had such agricultural issues.

Until now we have advocated that Japan is the biggest food importer among the industrialized nations. I think that so far we have failed to win full understanding of this. Many people at home and abroad take the view that Japan closes its farm produce market. However, Japan is the biggest importer of farm produce in the world. Japan is in a situation where it will have to import 48 percent of its caloric inake this year; this is just a little less than 50 percent. Given these circumstance, the people of Japan feel safe because their main staple, rice, is self-supplied. For this reason, I think that people are unconcerned about food. We must undertake further efforts to win the understanding of other nations with regard to this matter. I will continuously undertake maximum efforts to win such an understanding.

[Obama] In this regard, I would like to ask a question. There is a view among some people that Japan should make a concession to at least grant access to its rice market. What do you think of this view?

[Kondo] There is such a view. People are expressing various views. Japan has not yet come to the stage where it advocates its position at Uruguay Round meetings. I think that talks so far have been held in Brussels among the exporting nations. Japan, an importer with low self-sufficiency in food, naturally has differences with other nations. I think that it will become necessary to study how to make other nations understand. I will continuously strive to that end.

[Obama] When do you think Japan should make a decision on this rice issue?

[Kondo] I think that Japan is in a situation where it will have to make such a decision on this issue when all other issues involved in the Uruguay Round are settled. At present, talks are being held among the exporting nations.

[Obama] I will again ask a question on foreign affairs. Mr. Foreign Minister, I would like to ask you this question. I have heard that an adjustment is being made between Japan and the United States with respect to materializing President Bush's visit to Japan in early March. What about the prospect of his visit to Japan? What will be the major tasks involved if he visits Japan at that time?

[Nakayama] We are consulting with the United States through diplomatic channels to materialize President Bush's visit to Japan during March. I will visit Washington in the near future to hold talks with Secretary of State Baker for discussions on the bilateral tasks involved and the timing for the President's visit to Japan.

[Obama] President Gorbachev is scheduled to visit Japan in early April, is he not?

[Nakayama] Yes.

[Obama] Speaking at a 4 January press conference, Prime Minister Kaifu indicated that the president's first visit to Japan alone will make it difficult to create the possibility of the Soviet Union's package return of the northern territories to Japan. Mr. Foreign Minister, do you intend to carry through with the policy of setting the return of the northern territories as a great prerequisite for normalizing Japanese-Soviet relations without foregoing the policy of linking politics and economics?

[Nakayama] Both the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors, approximately ten times, unanimously adopted resolutions and more than 50 million people have put their signatures to a petition calling for a package return of the northern territories. In view of this Japanese position, I sincerely hope that the president's visit to Japan will lead to a major breakthrough toward a solution of the territorial question. I plan to visit Moscow in the near future. I will adjust views on various issues related to the president's visit to Japan at the foreign ministerial talks.

[Obama] Talks between you and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, originally scheduled for 2 January, have been postponed. When do you think these talks will be held?

[Nakayama] The two nations presently are consulting about this matter via diplomatic channels. We are consulting with the Soviets in the hope that talks will be held before the Diet resumes its session on 25 January.

[Obama] I now would like to ask you a question, Mr. Trade and Industry Minister. There are increased calls from throughout the world to strengthen economic assistance to the Soviet Union in order to help the Gorbachev government. Based on the policy of not separating politics from economics, Japan so far has been taking a relatively negative position on the matter. What will the government do in the future?

[Nakao] The world has changed a lot, as you know. There have been developments in the Soviet Union which we never thought possible. There is now a move toward democratization, which in a sense is symbolized by perestroyka. Similar things are happening in East Europe. Thus, the whole world is changing a great deal. I think it is necessary that Japan, as one of the free nations, decides what it should do to help the Soviet Union in its efforts for democratization. Right now the Soviet Union has an urgent problem of shortages in food and medical supplies. This is a humanitarian issue. Japan is prepared to provide strong support in this regard. But where additional measures or the next step of cooperation are concerned, I will have to come back to this issue after watching further developments in the world situation and after consulting with other Cabinet members who are here with me today. The next step of cooperation could mean technological or financial cooperation.

[Obama] Mr. Finance Minister, what is your view on this matter?

[Hashimoto] At the Houston summit last year, Japan undertook efforts to have the northern territories question mentioned in the economic clause of a declaration. In other words, Japan achieved a diplomatic victory. While this is the case, we have begun providing various forms of support from a humanitarian viewpoint.

Another point we should recall from the Houston summit is that there was an agreement among the top leaders participating in the talks that four organizations—the IMF, the World Bank, the OECD, and the European Reconstruction and Development Bank—should conduct an analysis of the Soviet economy and that nations should consider what assistance to provide to the Soviets based on that analysis. A report on this analysis came out late last year, and it told about very severe Soviet economic conditions. The report noted the need for technological support and revealed that the Soviet Union itself wants drastic rather than gradual reform. The report was rather negative about the need for economic assistance. It now is becoming a question of how nations will interpret this report. European countries and the United States have had different stances on the matter in the past. Even within the EC, the stance of the United Kingdom has been different from that of the nations on the continent. Following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, however, there have been some changes in the stances adopted by nations. Japan, for instance, has decided to provide humanitarian support. We have come to the conclusion that we will go so far as to think about using reserve funds for that purpose if necessary.

After all, there is no doubt that the territories issue exists. That being the case, I believe that a judgment on how far we should go in any cooperation, putting the issue aside, should come after a consensus on it has been achieved among the people of Japan.

[Obama] In other words, are you saying that if the matter enters a new phase, it will be only after President Gorbachev has visited Japan?

[Hashimoto] I think that a visit by the president will have weight. As the foreign minister said, it will be necessary to undertake efforts to focus the matter on the visit.

[Obama] Now, I would like to ask you, Mr. Defense Agency Director General, about the next-term defense buildup plan. The Mid-Term Defense Buildup Plan, beginning with 1991, has been finalized. Regarding this, opposition parties charge that while the international situation is moving toward a direction of arms reduction, the government policy runs counter to this. How would you respond to such charge?

[Ikeda] I would like to note four points in this regard. First, the fact that the new Mid-Term Defense Buildup Plan has been prepared does not mean that defense capabilities will continue to grow as a result. The buildup of defense capabilities, after all, takes such a long time—for example, the construction of vessels, aircraft, or some facilities. That being the case, it is necessary to present what will be procured or what expenses will be required within a certain framework of, let us say, five years. This is so, particularly since civilians control defense affairs.

Second, the international situation is moving from an age of confrontation to an age of cooperation. There is no doubt about it. As compared with the trend in Europe, however, I believe that there still exists no small element of instability in the Asian region. This can be said about political as well as military situations. Speaking about the military aspect, there have been no concrete moves for arms reductions made in the Asian region. In the Soviet Far East area, for example, there are still 360,000 troops stationed there. Even though the number of vessels and aircraft deployed has decreased a little, their force remains powerful. We cannot deny this.

Third, let us take a look at what we are hoping to add to existing defense capabilities by carrying out the new defense buildup plan. We are seeking to secure our basic defense capabilities. What the country needs is adequate capabilities to meet contingency situations in times of peace, as well as the ability to efficiently cope with situations of limited and small-scale aggression. In other words, our buildup plan is aimed at maintaining the minimum level of defense capabilities. I think we must have this level of capability even when the international situation is moving in a desirable direction.

Fourth, I would like you to take note of the substance of the new Mid-Term Defense Buildup Plan. Whereas previous defense buildup plans provided an average growth rate of 5.4 percent per annum, the new plan will give a growth rate of only 3.0 percent a year. Besides, the new plan is intended to cover the increased expenses that will accrue from assuming a bigger share of the costs of maintaining the U.S. forces in Japan. To take all these into account, I think the plan is one which is very restrained and conservative. If we classify equipment and supplies into what is destined for the frontline and what goes to the rear areas, then that for the frontline—namely, vessels and aircraft—will in fact decrease by a total of 2.3 percent on a contract value basis. This means that emphasis will be given to improving equipment and supplies for the rear areas. Consequently, new intelligence systems will be introduced in the rear areas and living conditions for Self-Defense Force members will be improved. Right now, as you know, the billets for soldiers are in a truly sorry state.

[Obama] With such rapid changes taking place in the international arena, it is possible that Japan will face a difficult time with its domestic economy in the future. Meanwhile, the government has made a forecast of 3.8 percent in economic growth for the forthcoming year. What is your view on this, Mr. Finance Minister?

[Hashimoto] I may get chastised for making this remark, but I like to compare Japan's state of economy to the feat of sumo champion Chiyonofuji. People claim that Chiyonofuji no longer has the power he had in his prime. Yet he made an outstanding comeback and won the championship in a tournament last season. To be sure, changes are now occurring in the conditions which have been the base of support for the bullish economy in the past. Land prices are rising and the labor shortage problem is getting increasingly serious. Prices of petroleum products have risen as a result of the Gulf crisis. These are some of the changes. Such elements of instability are increasing. However, despite all of this, the economy, centering around domestic demand, is continuing a healthy growth. To look around the world, there is no nation where the economy is progressing as soundly as in Japan. I think that this is the real power of Japan as a whole and we can be proud of it. What we need now is for this situation to continue and to last long into the future. In this context, I think that the target of growth rate set for this year is very rational. Likewise, the 1991 budget is a sound one, or shall I call it a natural one—a budget in which we do not have to think about putting leverages or brakes here and there to boost or discourage the economy. Our efforts henceforth will be only those designed to enable the existing situation to continue.

[Obama] There are now growing moves, internationally and domestically, to lower interest rates. How do you view these moves, Mr. Trade and Industry Minister? I understand the pressure is getting quite strong.

[Nakao] Of course, the offices which should be most deeply concerned about this question are the Finance Ministry and the Economic Planning Agency. Hence, I personally prefer not to make any comment on this. But

if you are asking what the general public is thinking about this matter, then there is no doubt that the people are more or less leaning toward it as a way of invigorating the economy. However, this question needs to be further studied.

Speaking about the economy of Japan in general, we must not forget the reality that Japan depends on the United States for one-third of its economic activities. Now is not the time for Japan to insist that it can prosper on its own. I have always been told whenever I have visited foreign nations that Japan is a market exporting goods and has never become a market buying goods. In view of the fact that Japan has prospered under this circumstance, it has been said that the world's present economic boom, which continued for almost fifty months, would not continue. It is said that the United States has entered or is about to enter recession at long last after nine years of economic boom. Although Japan's economy is robust now, it should be prepared to grapple with potential recession, while studying how to cope with moves in the world situation with the development of the Gulf crisis in mind. I think that this will be a major task to be tackled by new Cabinet members in charge of economic affairs.

[Obama] Mr. Finance Minister, although I am fully aware that the question of interest rates falls within the exclusive purview of the Bank of Japan's president [laughs], what do you think of domestic and international pressures on lowering the interest rates?

[Hashimoto] There are various debates all over the world. I think that no nation has asked Japan to lower its interest rates. No request has been made of Japan about a specific level for its interest rates. This question, I think, is something to be answered by the Bank of Japan's president on his responsibility. Interest rates in Germany are certainly arousing various debates, are they not? Regarding the level of Japan's interest rates, there are no conspicuous debates in other nations and in Group of Seven nations in particular. At the same time, I would like to look back to the time ranging from the beginning of last year to March or April when we strove to maintain the yen's value in the course of streamlining three markets—bonds, stocks, and share markets. At that time, we managed the interest rate policy. At the same time, we pursued a monetary policy designed to make it difficult to use funds for investing in land with the aim of putting an end to skyrocketing land prices. Regulations and limits on loans for land purchases have combined to begin easing land prices at long last.

I doubt if now is the time to lower interest rates. In this connection, I want to mention prices. Aside from the rise in crude oil prices and perishable food prices, I am a little concerned about prices with regard to the self-sufficiency of the work force. I intend to ask the Bank of Japan's president to implement the interest rate policy with these points in mind.

[Obama] Mr. Land Agency Director General, the finance minister just said that it would not be desirable to lower interest rates from the standpoint of resolving the question of land prices. What do you think?

[Nishida] Regarding interest rates, I will have to hear the finance minister's views. I hope that the finance minister will make an appropriate decision on land prices while watching trends in land prices.

[Obama] I would like to turn to the question of political reform. For the home affairs minister: there are eight constituencies in Tokyo that have the smallest number of voters. Eight other constituencies have more than three times as many voters as these eight constituencies. Since these constituencies now exceed by three times the number of voters and this has been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court; any dissolution of the Diet to hold general elections would be unconstitutional. Therefore, there exists the view that Prime Minister Kaifu is in fact barred from exercising his right to dissolve the Diet. What do you think of this?

[Fukida] The prime minister has an inherent right to dissolve the Diet; this right should be regarded as his privilege. Regarding the question of distribution in the fixed number of the Diet, as you just pointed out, there is a view that it may be unconstitutional. Therefore, I am trying to redress the issue as quickly as possible. The Diet, in its May 1986 session, made a hasty decision concerning the question of the fixed number for the House of Representatives. There has been an agreement that the distribution of voters must be drastically redressed. A resolution adopted at the Diet in May 1986 said that the two-seat constituency and the six-seat constituency are a little problematic. If debates are held on redressing the fixed number, this big question will be hard to resolve. I think that it may be better to review the present electoral system. The Electoral System Council has submitted a recommendation which calls for making a bold review of whether the present medium constituency system is desirable. Based on this recommendation, a full study is being made.

[Obama] Later, I would like ask you about this. However, let me ask you this for the time being. What do you think of the view that the prime minister should be barred from exercising his right to dissolve the Diet under the condition that the existence of the eight constituencies is a violation of the Constitution? Will you comment on this, International Trade and Industry Minister Nakao?

[Nakao] Well, since a decision on the issue of eight constituencies was made in the way we have just described, there is no room for us to comment. However, the point at issue is that an attempt to tamper with the constituencies themselves will certainly create various conflicts. Thus, I think this issue should be discussed as a different matter. Since we are making efforts on the basis of this policy, we should fully respect party policy. At the same time, however, it does not seem to me that

each individual issue has yet been clarified to all Diet members. Each Diet member has his or her own position. This issue is our major political task and lies heavy upon us.

[Obama] How about you, Finance Minister? Do you think the right to dissolve the Diet is in fact being removed?

[Hashimoto] Of course, it is necessary to make mutual efforts to revise the unconstitutional situation. I think that revision of the unconstitutional situation and the prime minister's right to dissolve the Diet are different matters. Thus, I believe that the right to dissolve the Diet still exists.

[Obama] Do you think the prime minister can actually dissolve the Diet?

[Hashimoto] Yes, I do. Theoretically, it is possible. Whether a dissolution is a good political choice or whether it will only result in legal arguments are different issues. However, I think that a dissolution of the Diet would create more negative effects than benefits.

[Obama] How about you, Foreign Minister?

[Nakayama] I think that the right to dissolve the Diet exists. However, it is a large issue and the starting point of democracy. Assuring fair distribution is a major task of the entire body politic. Thus, while cooperating with opposition parties, we have to make all-out efforts to correct the unconstitutional situation by the next election.

[Obama] Chief Cabinet Secretary, your colleagues say that although there are some political problems, the right to dissolve the Diet exists legally. I am afraid that the Kaifu Cabinet's chances to use the right, as a supreme power, are slim. Can you comment on this?

[Sakamoto] Constitutionally, as well as in terms of actual political management, I think the right to dissove the Diet is not restricted. However, I think it is necessary to correct the electoral gap; some constituencies have more than three times as many electorates as other constituencies. We have neither mentioned even a word of dissolution nor thought about it before. We are just saying that we will promote political reform and correct the unconstitutional situation.

[Obama] [laughing] Well, all your remarks are what might be expected of skillful politicians.

[Hashimoto] Theories and matters that you have to pay attention to when you apply them are different things. If we were to argue only for the sake of the right to dissolve the Diet, then I would say that it is not restricted. Practically speaking, it is necessary, of course, to exert efforts to correct the unconstitutional situation.

[Obama] The LDP mapped out the basic outline of political reform at the end of last year. Fundamentally speaking, the outline calls for simultaneous introduction of small constituencies and the proportional representation system. On the other hand, there exists a problem we just have discussed. The home affairs minister stated that fundamental reform is rather necessary because revision of a fixed number of the House is practically difficult. Now, I address this to all of you. What do you think of the contents of the basic outline of political reform which the LDP has mapped out? Director General of the National Land Agency, can you comment?

[Nishida] As the home affairs minister has just stated, political reform is the most important domestic issue facing the Kaifu Cabinet. Among other things, the Cabinet should reform the electoral system. I think that since the basic outline of the political reform, formulated by the LDP, is of great importance, various debates will be held on it. However, our tasks at the moment are to consider what we should do. My perception is that although the Diet will debate the issue, we should implement it by all means.

[Obama] Do you mean that more importance must be placed on the basic outline rather than on the question of redressing the fixed number?

[Ishida] Regarding the question of redressing the fixed number, my own constituency was affected at the time of redressing the fixed number in 1986. This question is very difficult to resolve and something which can not be resolved only by talking. Therefore, the proportional representation system and the small constituency system are now under consideration. I think that we have no choice but to resolve the question through these systems.

[Obama] Mr. Ikeda, what do you think?

[Ikeda] The systems recently formulated by the LDP call for not only redressing differences in electorates by constituency but for establishing a party-centered election system under which candidates can compete over policies. The systems have various aims. I was one of the LDP executive members during the formulation. At that time, I thought that nothing could be done without those systems. However, the introduction of a new electoral framework needs to seek a consensus among ruling and opposition parties; opposition parties are hardly likely to agree on introducing the systems. Therefore, efforts should be made to introduce the systems, while watching developments in consultations among ruling and opposition parties. It will be good if the opposition parties agree. If the opposition parties do not agree, the gravity of one vote should be at least redressed in line with the Diet resolution.

[Obama] Mr. Nakao, what do you think of the basic outline of the political reform?

[Nakao] I do not favor the idea that the electoral system must be revamped for political reform. I think that there are many other things to be implemented under political reform. For example, there is the proportional representation system for the House of Councilors. I wonder if the systems are acceptable to the people and officials

within the party. I think that the present framework of the Diet Policy Committee could stand some improvement. There are regulations under which legislators are prohibited from making marriage or funeral donations in their constituencies. Despite the regulations, legislators repeat the same thing. If a legislator breaks the regulations, they cannot be enforced in his constituency. If the intention is to prohibit legislators from making marriage or funeral donations, it is necessary to take legislative measures designed to impose severe punishment. I think that this is a major step toward political reform. I do not agree with the argument for introducing the small constituency system or reforming the electoral system.

[Obama] Mr. Kondo, what do you think?

[Kondo] I think that the basic outline is not aimed at introducing the small constituency system for the sole purpose of redressing the distribution of the fixed number. There are various problems to be resolved under the political reform. There is also the money problem you mentioned. The party is committed to political reform; I was among those stressing the need for it during the election campaign. Hence, political reform should be implemented. Political reform has many problems which cannot be resolved simply by redressing the distribution of fixed numbers. Of late, the party has formulated the basic outline. I think that there are many problems which cannot be resolved only through the basic outline; they require intensive debates until legislative actions are taken for political reform. Therefore, I think that we must study various views, as Minister Nakao just indicated, until legislative actions are taken for political reform, while holding dialogue with opposition parties. I think this is the most important task facing the Kaifu Cabinet.

[Obama] Do you mean that you support the basic outline of political reform aimed mainly at introducing the proportional representation system and the small constituency system?

[Kondo] Well, I think that the substance of the basic outline is good for legislative purposes, but there are some problems to be resolved in the course of fleshing out its substance.

[Obama] Mr. Hashimoto, what is your view?

[Hashimoto] I recalled the time when the Political Reform Promotion Headquarters was set up in the party three years ago, while hearing the views of my Cabinet colleagues here in the studio. At that time, the people's distrust in the LDP was running high, beyond all imagination, in the wake of the so-called Recruit financial scandal. We set up the headquarters, promising political reform. Later, as secretary general of the LDP, I fought in the House of Councillors election and received a severe reprimand from the people. I think that the very root of these debates lies in the financial scandal. As indicated earlier at this discussion, there are various problems which include the question of regulating political funds, the question of reviewing the Public Office Election Law, the question of reviewing the electoral system, and the question of redressing the fixed number. Under these circumstances, if we intend to return from the present fixed number to a legally-set number of 471 seats, it will be difficult for us to do so under the present electoral framework. As a result, the opinoin has surfaced that it would be good to consider shifting to a small constituency system. I think that this has touched off various debates. In conclusion, the government side, which has had no opportunity to involve itself in working out the small constituency system, has said from the outset that it would follow any decisions the LDP makes. It is my belief that not only the electoral system but political reform and other things must be handled this way.

[Obama] Foreign Minister Nakayama, what do you think?

[Nakayama] I think that reforming the electoral system is the biggest issue in political reform. As the finance minister just pointed out, the party plans to reform the electoral system from the standpoint of reflecting upon itself. Looking at the Diet as a whole, however, the Diet marked its centenary last year. We must consider the future shape of the parliamentary system and the electoral system, while studying how the House of Representatives and House of Councillors should be set up. We must study how much Japan has changed since the Diet opened. Various debates have been held on the question of population movement and the question of elections requiring funds.

It is necessary for each nation to embrace an electoral system commensurate with its national situation. For example, Germany and France adopted the small constituency system and the proportional representation system. In Japan, debates are being held within the party based on reality. For politicians, the constituency is of great importance. It takes time to make people or electorates understand how the new electoral system will further promote democratization. One measure would be to take legislative actions before the next elections. I think it is necessary for politicians to work on political reform for the new era while seeking a consensus among themselves. As a party member, I am among those supporting the basic outline of the political reform which the LDP has drafted.

[Obama] Mr. Sakamoto, I would like to hear your view.

[Sakamoto] That is...

[Obama, interrupting] You must support it.

[Sakamoto] Naturally, I support it.

[Obama] Mr. Nakano, after hearing what you have so far said in this dicussion, I have an impression that you are a little negative about the basic outline of political reform.

[Nakao] No, that is not correct. I am not against it. Among those things for which we have to work vigorously, there are the small constituency system and the sweeping review of the electoral system. In reality, however, these are not known to all of the people. Under this situation, it is better for us to examine first how the reform of the electoral system will purify politics, instead of jumping to a conclusion about this question. At the time of my serving as the chairman of the Budget Committee, I drew a line to the so-called Recruit financial scandal after the committee took up the scandal. Speaking from these particulars, it is necessary to clarify reasons for introducing the small constituency system. It is also necessary to hold elections which do not require money and to make clear politics. All these are a starting point. The small constituency system can be considered a factor for which we have to work vigorously. As far as I know, however, some of my Diet colleagues oppose the small constituency system.

[Obama] Do they belong to the LDP?

[Nakao] Yes, they do. I think that efforts and debates are needed to clear these points.

[Obama] Mr. Sakamoto, what is your view?

[Sakamoto] International Trade and Industry Minister Nakao has just said that he was pinning his hopes on holding fruitful discussions in the future to establish a fine election law. Well, there is no lack of unity among Cabinet members. [laughter] Let me tell you my personal impressions. As the foreign minister has just said, the Diet marked its centennial founding anniversary. This means that we have had elections for 100 years. It may be necessary for us to look back on the past 100 years. I lost in general elections twice, but I have been in politics for 24 years. To do some soul-searching on my role as a politician for the 24 years, I as a Dietman and a representative should have devoted 24 hours a day, every day to thinking about the nation and the people. To be honest, however, all Cabinet ministers as well as Dietmen have use more than half of their energy planning reelection strategies. I think this is largely because of the current medium electoral district system which forces us to fight among ourselves to get elected. I wish we had a system which would allow us to really devote our time to studying policies for the people. Since we are conducting parliamentary politics and party politics, I think the concept centering around the party—proposed by a party research committee—is more desirable from the perspective of serving the nation. That is my view in support of the proposal.

[Obama] Mr. Home Minister, if the views of the ministers are summarized, even though you said there is no discord within the party, there are delicate differences in their views. I think it will not be easy to consolidate all views into a bill. When do you think the plan will be finalized?

[Fukida] This is something which requires the understanding and cooperation of many people. That is the basic point. The ruling party will do everything it can to draft a bill, based on agreed upon guidelines. Opposition parties, in the meantime, appear to be reviewing and discussing the concept presented by the research committee. There are various views within each of the parties. We for our part want to proceed without delay to finalize our work. It is rather difficult for us to predict at this stage when it will be done. The Home Ministry is an office which helps other offices and is not an office in charge of it. What we will do is to call on all the parties, soliciting their understanding and cooperation. I cannot say when this will be ready but would like to note that it will be as soon as possible.

[Obama] Mr. Chief Cabinet Secretary, Prime Minister Kaifu, I remember, said that he wanted the bill ready by 29 November, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Diet. Will you comment on that?

[Sakamoto] Well, we wish we had the bill, but there are steps to get there. First of all, the party must come up with a draft of the party. That draft has just been made. It is now the stage when the government and the party are about to start actions to obtain the understanding and cooperation of opposition parties. With the help of the home affairs minister, we hope this wiil be completed as soon as possible.

[Obama] But Prime Minister Kaifu is also president of the LDP. We hope he will display his leadership and do his best to respond to the expectations of the people. What is your opinion?

[Sakamoto] I agree with you.

[Fukida] There are some differences between the Deliberation Council's draft and that of the party, but we will prepare LDP guidelines pursuant to the Deliberation Council draft as soon as possible, developing them into a bill. I think we have to respect the council's draft and proceed from there without further delay. After all, this is party politics. The party and its policies should be the basis of our thinking.

[Obama] Now, I would like to raise the next major domestic task for the Kaifu Cabinet—the land issue. My first question is for you, Mr. Nishida. What actions do you, as director general of the Land Agency, plan to take to bring land prices down?

[Nishida] As you said, Mr. Obama, land prices are one of major domestic issues along with the political reform question. As you may know, I have received various recommendations regarding basic land law legislation from the Land Policy Reserach Committee. One of the recommendations is that the myth about land should be eradicated. I presume the myth about land is that land is a very good investment. I think, therefore, a major task facing us henceforth is how we should handle questions relating to holding, transferring, and acquiring land. Another task is to bring down the prices of land to an appropriate level. There are discussions going on as to what level the prices should be lowered. My belief on this

is that the prices should be lowered to a level which will enable average general wage earners living around Tokyo to buy lots at prices equivalent to five to six year's income. The third point concerns the utilization of land. It is becoming increasingly important that land utilization should be planned in advance.

In view of all these, it is necessary that strong measures be taken regarding the land situation. The measures should be strongly pursued from the perspective of taxation, finance, and land utilization efficiency.

[Obama] I would like to ask you, Mr. Finance Minister, about land prices. You must admit there has been criticism that the substance of the land tax bill is lukewarm, and land prices will never go down this way. What will you do if opposition parties get together and agree to present to the Diet a revised bill proposing upward readjustment of tax rates—0.2 percent in the first year and 0.3 percent from the second year—set forth in the bill?

[Hashimoto] This concerns the Diet's deliberative functions. We are in no position to make predictions or comment on it. We, as the government and the ruling party, finalized the bill after coming to a conclusion regarding the matter. We want to present the bill to the Diet as soon as possible. On the other hand, we are thinking about establishing a new additional tax system whereby well-balanced taxes can be imposed at the stages of transfer, holding, and acquisition of land.

I have said time and again that taxation alone cannot bring down land prices. This cannot happen unless it is done in tandem with other measures. Taxation alone cannot lower land prices. Taxation and finance, no doubt, can play an important part in the overall land policy, but still this will only be a secondary role.

[Obama] Next question for the minister of international trade and commerce. I asked the same question of the finance minister. If opposition parties come up with a revision bill proposing a rise in rates for land taxes, business circles will resist it. As minister in charge of trade and commerce, how will you deal with this situation if it arises?

[Nakao] I think I must speak from the viewpoint of both large and small businesses, but I have nothing to say beyond what the finance minister said just now. We will have to watch the progress of deliberations in the Diet and take appropriate actions. The tax law must be something that can contribute to economic invigoration. Small and medium businesses are particularly concerned about this. We should take care so that it will help invigorate the economy and thus boost prosperity, not only of communities in metropolitan areas but also in iocal areas.

[Obama] What is your view, Mr. Nishida?

[Nishida] My view is the same as his. I think the tax system can do a big part, but there are problems that cannot be solved with the tax system only. Unless other means, like financial policy and land utilization efficiency, are applied in tandem, the anomaly cannot be removed. That is what I think.

[Obama] Mr. Finance Minister, I would like to ask you a final question about revising the consumption tax. With ruling and opposition parties not agreeing on the matter, the 1991 budget had to be organized, leaving the consumption tax in its present state. Suppose both sides come to an agreement in the middle of the year. In that case, will the revision take effect immediately?

[Hashimoto] Naturally, we will act on it once approved in the legislature. We, for our part, think the consumption tax is necessary and hence want it to take root. I hope that the revision will be one which can obtain the understanding of the people.

[Obama] I am sorry, I forgot to ask this earlier. When do you plan to introduce the new bill on land tax in the Diet?

[Hashimoto] I do not know how long the review at the Cabinet Legislative Bureau will take. I am hoping to have it presented after the Diet resumes its session. I would like to note that the chief Cabinet secretary's office will perform a key role, even more so than in the past. We would like to do our best to support his office.

[Obama] Earlier, the chief Cabinet secretary said that Japan has entered a new open-door age. In closing I would like to express the hope that the government will conduct politics to meet the expectations of the people, based on such a spirit. Thank you so much.

North Korea

Reunification Letter Broadcast Into South

SK0901084791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Through broadcasts and international mail, we have sent letters to the South Korean authorities and to representatives of each political party and public organization.

In a telephone message on 8 January, our side notified the South Korean side that our two liaison officials will hand over the letters addressed to the South Korean authorities and represenatives of each political party and public organization in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom on 9 January. The letters were adopted at a joint conference of representatives of the government, political parties, and public organizations of the Republic for implementing the proposal made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for convoking a political consultative conference on national reunification. We demanded that the South side receive these letters.

However, in a reply telephone message on 9 January, the South side took an improper attitude by saying that it cannot accept these letters.

Because of such an unjust act by the South Korean side, we have not been able to deliver the letters which we were going to send to the South Korean authorities and representatives of each political party and public organization through Panmunjom. Thus, we are forced to broadcast them and send them through international mail.

The recipients of our letters addressed to the South Korean side are as follows:

No Tae-u, president [namjoson] of South Korea and president of the Democratic Liberal Party; No Chae-pong, acting prime minister of the ROK [taehan minguk]; Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy; Kim Hyong-kyu, acting president of the Democratic Party; Yi U-chae, standing chairman of the Party of the Masses; Sin Chang-kyun, co-chairman of the National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon]; Kim Yong-tae, acting chairman of the National Federation of Workers' Movement; Kwon Chong-tae, chairman of the National Alliance of Farmers Movement; Kwon O-chung, acting chairman of the National Council of University Student Representatives; Yun Yong-kyu, chairman of the National Federation of Teachers' Trade Unions; Kwon Yong-kil, chairman of the National Federation of Journalists' Trade Unions; Ko Un, co-chairman of National Alliance of Nationalist Artists; Ham Se-ung, representative of National Cathoric Priests Association for Justice; Pak Yong-mo, co-chairman of the National Council of the Christian Social Movement; Chi Son, chairman of Consultative Federation of the Buddhist Movement for Independent Reunification of the Nation; Yi Hyo-chae, president of the National Federation of Women's Organizations of Korea; Mun Ik-hwan, advisor to Chonminnyon; Kim Su- hwan, cardinal of the Catholic Church; Paek Ki-wan, director of the Reunification Research Institute; Son Chae-sik, president of the Central Consultative Council for National Reunification; Pak Chong-kon, chairman of the National Federation of Workers' Trade Unions; Han Kyong-son, president of the Central Agricultural Corporation; Kim Yong-paek, acting president of the National Council for Teachers' Organizations; Kang Son-yong, president of the Korea Federation of Artistic and Cultural Organizations; Yi Sok-chae, president of the National Council for Religious Organizations; Yi Hae-pok, president of the Korea Journalists Association, and Kim Kyong-o, of the National Council of Women's Associations of Korea.

'Full Text' of Letter Reported

SK0901093291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 9 Jan 91

["Full text" of a letter to the authorities and the representatives of the political parties and organizations of South Korea adopted at a joint meeting of delegates of the DPRK Government, political parties, and organizations held in Pyongyang on 8 January—read by announcer]

[Text] A letter to the authorities and the representatives of the South Korean political parties and organizations of South Korea:

Today we have held a joint meeting of delegates of the government, political parties, and organizations in the Republic and have seriously discussed immediate ways to promote the reunification of the country in conformity with the demands of a new prevailing situation.

Reflecting upon the touching events of last year, which surged with the spirit of national unity and the fever of reunification, we, the participants in the joint meeting, out of single-hearted aspirations for opening a new phase of reunification together this year without fail, send this letter to the authorities and the representatives of the political parties and organizations of South Korea.

In retrospect, last year was a significant year when warm sentiments between kin were exchanged for the first time between the North and the South, which have been deadlocked over more than 40 years, and when the fellow countrymen's heated shouts of reunification echoed with one accord.

The festivals of dialogue and reunification between politicians, social dignitaries, and people of all walks of life, which were vigorously held in Pyongyang, Seoul, and abroad, clearly confirmed that our nation is one and that the aspirations of the fellow countrymen for national reunification are also one.

There exists no distrust or antagonism between the fellow countrymen in the North and the South with the same ancestry and the bounds of division do not exist separately.

With the ardent wishes of all fellow countrymen for reunification, our national history, which has ushered in the 1990's, is finally greeting an epoch turn toward unity and reunification.

At this important juncture, our politicians should come out as the pioneers of reunification who actively prompt the affirmative development of the situation onto national reunification and add a spurt to national history in progress.

Our politicians in the North and the South are assigned the duty and responsibility for achieving reunification with practical actions, not only with lip service, and for opening a correct way of progress for 70 million fellow countrymen's ardent reunification desires which erupt like an active volcano.

On the basis of his insight into this pressing mission of the politicians in the North and the South, respected and beloved President Kim Il-song, in his New Year's

address, raised the question of reaching a national consensus on the way to national reunification as an important task and to settle it, pro[illegible]unced an epoch-making proposal for convening, at an early date, a political consultative conference for national reunification between the authorities and representatives of the political parties and organizations in the North and the South.

We are convinced that this historic overture, which calls all politicians in the North and the South to the arena of grand national reconciliation, includes a key to meeting the aspirations of fellow countrymen for reunification and sums up the statesmanship of our politicians who design the future of a reunified fatherland.

At present, the national will for reunification is firm and eagerness for it is extraordinarily high, but our efforts and strength have not been pooled as one. Many desire reunification, but have not taken the same direction. There are various ways to achieve reunification, but they still remain unilateral assertions.

Unless a reasonable way for national reunification is firmly decided on, the eagerness and strength of the fellow countrymen cannot be directed at a single goal nor can the North and the South take steps together. In addition, the shouts of the nation for reunification will only ring hollow.

To explore a national agreement on the way for national reunification out of these worries, in 1989 we appealed for holding a political consultative conference between the leading figures in the North and the South.

Now when we should open a new phase for national reunification at an early date in response to the aspirations of the fellow countrymen for reunification, we should no longer postpone the settlement of this question.

At this moment, the attitude toward this question is a barometer determining whether the reunification of the country is wanted or not.

As profoundly elucidated by respected and beloved President Kim Il-song in his New Year's address, national reunification should be realized by means of confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments—on the principle that one side not conquer the other side within our situation where the two different systems exist in the North and the South.

Achieving reunification by means of confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments is the great principle of the most realistic and reasonable way for national reunification which prevents the perpetuation of division into two Koreas, clears up the suspicion of communization and victory over communism and of northward and southward invasion, and guarantees peace, reunification, and the North-South coexistence.

Our proposal for founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo [DCRK], which embodies this great principle, enjoys active support and sympathy among a wide range of compatriots in the North, the South, and abroad. In reality, the way for reunification by means of confederation has constituted the main theme in debates over reunification today.

We are convinced that the proposal to found DCRK is the most just way for reunification suited to our present realities. In efforts to make it easier to reach a national consensus on this proposal, however, we are willing to discuss the question of gradually and completely effecting reunification through confederation by vesting the regional autonomous governments of the confederal republic with more rights on a tentative basis and then by increasing the functions of the central government in the future.

Besides this, we will discuss in a heart-to-heart manner any view that is genuinely conducive to national reunification, regardless of who may present it. If a more reasonable way for reunification through confederation is put forth, we will gladly accept it without being confined to our own proposal.

The time has come when we should pool the resourcefulness and will of the nation for deciding on a way for national reunification which all fellow countrymen recognize.

The responsible politicians in the North and the South should sit together at an early date with the lofty ideology of national reunification and give a clear answer to the urgent question of the nation as to how reunification should be expedited in the 1990's.

To this end, we respectfully propose that a political consultative conference for national reunification, in which the authorities and the representatives of the political parties and organizations in the North and the South participate, be convened on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of 15 August.

The political consultative conference should be attended by the same number of delegates from the North and the South on equal footing as well as by delegates of overseas Korean compatriots, without discrimination between the authorities and nongovernmental people, between the ruling and opposition parties and dissidents, and between the majority and the minority.

Pyongyang or Seoul will be appropriate for the site of this conference.

To successfully arrange this historic grand conference, we consider it urgently necessary to have bilateral or multilateral contact and dialogue between political parties, group, delegates of different levels, and politicians in the North and the South.

We will always leave the door open for all politicians and figures of South Korea who want to visit the North for

reunification dialogue and accept with pleasure the invitation of any political party or organization of South Korea to discuss the method of reunification at any time.

There is no greater reward than devoting themselves to the cause of national reunification as Korean politicians; and there is no greater crime than turning away from the aspirations of the nation for reunification. Indeed, reunification means patriotism; and division is treachery.

Today when the spirit of national reunification is growing higher, the politicians should not try to be content with the realities of division as slaves of vested rights, but unhesitatingly join the grand nationwide march of the fellow countrymen toward reunification by putting all other interests aside.

The direction of national history in an era of turn depends on the courageous determination of our politicians.

When the politicians in the North and the South transcend differences in ideas and systems, trust each other, and pool their strength and wisdom, they will able to reach a national consensus on the way for national reunification and to open a bright vista for national reunification in the near future.

Deeply cherishing this conviction, we express our expectations that the authorities and the representatives of the political parties and organizations in South Korea will actively respond to our sincere proposal.

[Signed] A joint meeting of delegates of the DPRK Government, political parties, and organizations on 8 January 1991, Pyongyang

Daily Reports North's Efforts To Bring Peace

SK0901060291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Maintaining peace is the most pressing task that must be carried out by the North and the South for the reunification of the country and the wellbeing of the nation. The Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government have made every possible effort for the settlement of the question of peace.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a by-lined article.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying in his new year address:

"We have always attached prime importance to the question of peace in our country and have been making every sincere effort for its settlement."

Out of sincere desire to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and pave the way to peaceful reunification, we made already in 1988 a comprehensive peace proposal envisaging the adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and South, the signing of a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States, a drastic reduction of the armed forces of the North and South and a phased withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea. Last year, we arranged North-South High-Level Talks and put forward important proposals for the settlement of the question of nonaggression and other effective measures for removing the military confrontation.

In recent years alone, we have made many reasonable and realistic peace overtures and proposals. Among them are the proposals for tripartite talks involving the DPRK, the United States and South Korea, talks between military authorities of the North and South, the suspension of military manoeuvres, the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, North-South parliamentary talks and North-South parliamentary joint meeting for an agreement on and publication of a joint declaration of nonaggression and a multinational disarmament negotiation. And we took positive and practical steps in the form of transferring more than 150,000 men of the Korean People's Army to peaceful construction, cutting the strength of the People's Army by 100,000 men and suspending large-scale military exercises.

However, an acute confrontation still remains and the danger of a war is ever growing on the Korean peninsula.

This is because the United States and the South Korean authorities have failed to positively respond to our sincere efforts for peace and are rushing headlong toward a war, while extensively increasing armaments. As the course of North-South High-Level Talks indicates, the South Korean authorities, unwilling to take even elementary steps for peace, insisted on the "priority to exchanges" concept. They have persistently rejected the adoption of a nonaggression declaration, laying down another precondition for it such as "priority to confidence-building."

This year, too, when North-South dialogue is on the order of the day, the South Korean authorities are going to stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises called a test nuclear war together with the United States against the North, while openly proceeding to the heightening of tension and war.

Such position of theirs shows that they do not have even an iota of intention to solve the question of peace together with the North and "threat from the North" over which they are not weary of crying is nothing but a lie.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities truly want peace and peaceful reunification, they must show an affirmative response to our realistic peace overtures and proposals and discontinue military moves against peace.

KCNA Reviews 9 Jan Pyongyang Press

SK0901054991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that foreign papers carried New Year address of the great Leader President Kim Il-song.

Papers give an account of a joint meeting of delegates of the government, political parties and organizations of the DPRK to carry into practice the new proposal for the convocation of a political consultative conference for national reunification put forward by President Kim Il-song and the report delivered by Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the meeting.

Carried in the press are messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on the new year 1991.

Given in the press are accounts of meetings of working people held in various places to thoroughly implement the tasks set forth by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address and a campfire meeting and a torchlight procession of soldiers and builders who are participating in the construction of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "The Workers' Party of Korea Organizes and Guides All the Victories of Our People" is reported and studied in different countries, says NODONG SINMUN.

The daily reports that a Tanzanian figure issued a statement on the publication of this work.

An article of the daily says that the great tradition of singlehearted unity was established in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle when young communists and members of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army held Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the sun of the nation and the only centre of unity.

Edited in the daily are statements made by Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the league of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, and Hong Chi-yong, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front, and a joint statement issued by the All India Indo-Korean Friendship Association and the Indian Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification in support of the new proposal for national reunification put forward by President Kim Il-song in his new year address.

Under the title "The Chuche Idea Is a Great Idea at Present Time", the daily conveys voices of foreign political and public figures praising the greatness of the chuche idea.

The daily editorially calls for vigorously accelerating the march in the new year by giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work.

Econews of the press includes a report that cooperative farms across the country are stepping up the spread of humus soil over fields.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article headlined "Historical Meeting Which Occasioned Great Upsurge in '90s" on the first anniversary of the 17th plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the WPK.

"It Is the Key to the Display of Advantages and Potentiality of Socialist Economy To Strictly Apply the Taean Work System" is the title of an article of MINJU CHOSON.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the president of Mozambique and the secretary general of the United National Independence Party of Zambia met DPRK ambassadors in their countries.

The press reports that Korean players finished the winner at the 1991 world youth ice hockey championships (group C).

Seen in papers are a telephone message sent by Premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk to South Korea's "prime minister-designate" No Chae-pong in order to convey a letter to the authorities, political party leaders and representatives of organizations of South Korea which was adopted at the joint meeting of delegates of the government, the political parties and organizations of the DPRK, and a telephone message sent by the head of the North side's delegation to the North-South sports talks to his South Korean counterpart for an early convocation of the second talks.

South Korean news columns of papers include a report that the general council of the Christian Presbyterian societies of South Korea vow to fight to achieve the reunification by 1995 and a report that An Tong-il, a lawyer, accused No Tae-u of committing the fascist "cabinet reshuffle."

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers of the aerial nuclear war exercises staged by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea.

The paper runs an article entitled "Sincere Efforts of Our Republic for Solution to the Problem of Peace in the Country."

It is reported in papers that the Japanese foreign minister said Japan would make full preparations for a smooth proceeding of the full-dress talks for normalization of diplomatic relations with the DPRK and the Koreans' newspaper in the United States SHINHAN MINBO published an editorial captioned "for early normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan."

NODONG SINMUN reports that a Mongolian magazine carried an article stressing that Korea is a country with its own social, political and economic characteristics and a seminar was held in Guinea to mark the day of the socialist constitution of the DPRK.

The paper informs the readers that Comrade Fidel Castro inspected the Los Palacios Industrial-Agricultural Complex.

The Zimbabwean monthly magazine ZIMBABWE NEWS published an article headlined "There Can Be No Retreat to Capitalism," says the paper.

The paper introduces agricultural achievements in Vietnam last year and environmental protection in Albania.

It introduces economic and cultural successes in Ethiopia, Algeria, Zambia, Cameroon, Senegal, Morocco and Cote d'Ivoire.

In an article titled "Peace Is Most Universal Ideal of Humanity" the paper stresses that peace can be achieved only through the struggle to check and thwart the aggressive and belligerent moves of the imperialists who disturb and wreck peace.

MINJU CHOSON calls for holding higher the banner of anti-imperialist independence.

South Korea

Japan's Kaifu Arrives in Seoul; Agenda Previewed

SK0901032691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu flew into Seoul Wednesday for two days of smoothing bilateral relations, hampered by questions from the past, the trade imbalance and the status of resident Koreans in Japan.

Only the second Japanese Prime Minister to visit South Korea, Kaifu is accompanied by his wife and an 18-member official entourage. Yasuhiro Nakasone was here as prime minister in January 1983. Kaifu's visit is to reciprocate President No Tae-u's four-day trip to Tokyo in May.

Immediately after arrival at Seoul Airport on the southeastern outskirts of the capital, Kaifu drove to the national cemetery, where Korean patriots, many of whom fought against Japanese rule, are buried.

On Thursday, Kaifu will visit Pagoda Park in downtown Seoul and become the first Japanese official to pay tribute to the birthplace of the March 1 independence movement against Japan in 1919. Japan ruled Korea from 1910-45, and mobilized hundreds of thousands of Koreans as slave labor, soldiers and "comfort girls" for Japan's war efforts.

Kaifu will hold two rounds of talks with No on Wednesday and Thursday. The agenda will be easing tension on the Korean peninsula, Japan's warming relations with North Korea, the worsening trade imbalance in Japan's favor and Japan's discrimination against Korean residents in Japan.

Government leaders have been eager to improve Seoul-Tokyo ties since the neighboring countries signed a normalization treaty in 1965, but public antagonism against Japan dies hard.

The past few days have seen several Korean organizations issue statements opposing Kaifu's visit and accusing Japan of being insincere in repenting for past wrongs against Koreans. Japan's treatment of resident Koreans who, or whose parents, were taken to Japan against their will is one of the deepest-rooted causes of bilateral discord.

Japan's lack of efforts to redress the serious imblance in its trade with Korea has also fueled anti-Japan sentiment here. Korea's trade deficit with Japan hit a record 6.09 billion U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis last year, up 52.6 percent from 3.99 billion dollars in 1989. The aggregate total of Korea's trade deficit with Japan between 1981 and 1990 has topped 38.3 billion dollars.

No Tae-u Lists 'Concerns' During Kaifu Summit

SK0901103291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1018 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu sat down for a summit Wednesday on bilateral and international concerns, including Japan's moves to normalize ties with North Korea.

Kaifu pledged to fully negotiate with South Korea on the progress of Tokyo-Pyongyang talks, urge North Korea to open up its society and sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty safeguards agreement, all of which are included in No's five-point ground rules regarding the talks, an aide to No said.

The Japanese prime minister specified that Tokyo will bring up the issue of the nuclear safeguards agreement at official talks with Pyongyang, the Chongwadae (presidential residence) official said.

The summit, first of the two scheduled during Kaifu's two-day Seoul visit, also focused much on issues concerning the Korean peninsula, the spokesman said. The two heads of state were in agreement that the two countries should play leading roles in a bid to secure stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. They agreed that the two countries should seek mutual cooperation, both politically and economically, to cement an international cooperative system in Northeast Asia in the face of growing trade protectionism and regionalism, the official said.

Kaifu was told of Seoul's improving relations with East European nations and the Soviet Union, according to the presidential aide. No explained ongoing economic talks with Moscow and suggested that Japan participate in projects for exploring raw materials in Siberia, he said.

No reiterated the so-called five-point ground rules regarding Tokyo's diplomatic advances with Pyongyang. Much concern has been raised among South Korean Government officials after Japan's former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru visited Pyongyang last September to initiate improvement of relations.

The five-point principle stresses that Japan consult fully with South Korea on Tokyo-Pyongyang talks, that the talks lead to meaningful improvement in South-North Korean relations, Pyongyang sign the nuclear safeguards agreement, Tokyo not pay compensation for war atrocities to Pyongyang before full normalization, and that Pyongyang be encouraged to open up its society and resume its role on the international stage.

Seoul does not oppose the talks between Pyongyang and Tokyo, No was quoted as saying, but requested that the developments complement South-North Korean talks.

Kaifu's visit is a return call for No's Japan visit last May. He is the second Japanese prime minister to come to South Korea.

The two leaders are to meet again Thursday. In a separate meeting Thursday, foreign ministers of the two countries are to discuss specific terms for upgrading legal rights of Koreans residing in Japan, ways to ease bilateral trade imbalance in favor of Japan, and boosting technological cooperation.

One of the major issues at the ministerial meeting will be legal rights of an estimated 700,000 Koreans in Japan, mostly descendents of those forcibly shipped there to work at labor camps during World War II.

North Invitations to Citizens, Leaders Refused

SK0901054691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0523 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea told North Korea Wednesday it would refuse to accept letters inviting political and social leaders to attend talks because the proposed talks were tainted with "political propaganda."

In a telephone message to North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk, South Korean Prime Minister No Chae-pong said, "it is undesirable for you to send letters inviting social and political leaders, including our party heads, to a rally designed for political propaganda during the inter-Korean high-level talks."

On Tuesday, Yon asked No to take delivery of invitations to the National Unification Consultation Conference at the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in the truce village of Panmunjom Wednesday afternoon.

Opposition Parties Oppose Sending Medical Team

SK0601012591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Opposition parties issued statements yesterday to oppose the government's plan to send a military medical team to the Persian Gulf.

The main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] demanded that the government drop the plan.

The government first sent a medical corps to the Vietnam War, but in the long run it dispatched hundreds of thousands of ground forces to the then South Vietnam, said PPD vice spokesman Chang Yong-tal.

The minor opposition Democratic Party also said it definitely opposes dispatching a medical unit, a move which is in conflict with national interests.

PPD To Vote Against Sending Medics to Gulf

SK0701053991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0449 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korean opposition parties are opposed to government plans to dispatch a military medical team to the Persian Gulf in support of the U.S.-led allied operation there.

Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said it would vote against a bill to authorize the dispatch in the National Assembly session opening on Jan. 24, but the ruling party has a massive majority that assures passage.

The government reportedly plans to send a 200-member military medical team to Saudi Arabia in February in response to a U.S. request.

"It would be all right for the government to render other forms of support. We would never approve sending military personnel there," PPD spokesman Kim Tae-sik said after a leadership meeting. "Our party did not question the economic sanctions against Iraq, but the consensus is that we can't afford to send military personnel to the Gulf while we are confronting North Korea."

In a statement issued over the weekend, the PPD said the government should remember that the dispatch of army medics led to sending troops to Vietnam in the 1960s.

"The government has already decided to give 22 million dollars (to the multinational forces and frontline countries) at the request of the United States, and this is not a light burden on the nation. The government should withdraw its plan to send military medical personnel in view of the calamitous result of the action," the statement said.

The splinter Democratic Party and the People's Party, which has no seat in the Assembly, made it plain they are opposed to the government plans.

Sending Civilian Medics to Gulf Considered

SK0801090791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—Senior officials of the South Korean Health-Social Affairs Ministry began Tuesday to consider dispatching civilian medical personnel and supplies to the Persian Gulf if a war erupts and drags on a long time.

The health officials, in a meeting presided over by Planning-Management Director Chu Kyong-sik, agreed on the need to send a medical team to the Gulf region to treat Koreans and other civilians wounded in the whirlwind of armed conflict.

"A final decision has yet to be made in the matter. We are considering it as part of our contingency plans," an official said after the meeting.

The officials also decided to work out comprehensive measures to prepare for epidemics, climatic changes and other problems that may caused by war and fire in the oil fields.

The South Korean Government earlier decided to send a military medical team to the Gulf region pending National Assembly approval.

Further on Deployment of Medics to Gulf

SK0801130091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1240 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean medical team to be sent to the Persian Gulf is most likely to be deployed at rear coastal areas in eastern Saudi Arabia, South Korean Government officials indicated Tuesday.

The officials said the Korean medics will be placed under the control of the medical support command of the multinational forces. The Seoul government is planning to conclude an agreement specifying the terms and conditions of the team's stationing with the Saudi Government around Jan. 24 or 25, officials said. "The Saudi Government will be incurring all costs related to upkeeping of the medical team, and basic terms for the agreement have already been worked out," a well-placed government official said.

South Korea is planning to dispatch a 200-member medical support squad in early February as part of its aid to the multinational peacekeeping force in the Gulf. The Korean Government promised to provide 220 million U.S. dollars in aid in cash and materials. The agreement to be signed with the Saudi Government is composed of about 10 provisions which include size and operation area of the medical team and guarantee of special privileges for team members, he said.

The government is also considering ways of lending support to Gulf-neighboring countries hurt by international economic sanctions against Iraq, such as having domestic firms produce items they request. Their request list includes vehicles, medicine and daily necessities, and the necessary support fund will be coming out of official economic grant for developing countries, the official said. Seoul is also planning to send an inspection team of about 20 people to the Gulf on Jan. 15.

Former North Commander's Testimony: Part 18

SK0701105891 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 29 Nov 90 p 10

[Part eighteen in a series by Yu Song-chol, former Operations Bureau Commander in the North Korean Army, co-written with Yonsei University Professor Choe Pyong-kil: "My Testimony"]

[Text]**After Receiving an "Invitation" I Visit Pyongyang after Thirty Years"**

It was difficult adjusting to the Soviet lifestyle again after returning from North Korea. I was able to overcome these hardships, however, due to the assistance of the Soviet authorities and the devoted care of my wife.

Our family, which was expelled from North Korea toward the end of 1959, settled down in Kuchilolu City [spelling as published] in the Republic of Kazakhstan . While living there, I received remunerations equivalent to a Soviet senior colonel, and on occasion I went to the Kuchilolu City mobilization bureau and lectured on my wartime experiences.

Even so, it was mentally difficult to get through the cold winters in the hinterlands of Central Asia where there was absolutely no one whom I knew.

Thus, at the invitation of my younger brother, Yu Chae-sun, I moved to Tashkent in June 1960. Many Koreans lived in Tashkent, where my brother was working as a teacher in a middle school at the Tashkent collective farm. For the first six months we lived in Tashkent, we stayed at my brother's house, since we did not have a house at the time. Fortunately our lives stablized when the Tashkent mobilization bureau furnished us with housing and a military pension.

On the other hand, my health deteriorated because of my palsy attacks. I had to stop working and I came to depend on my pension to live.

Currently I receive 400 rubles a month, which is standard for a Soviet general officer. My wife Kim Yong-ok, who majored in obstetrics and gynecology, works at the Tashkent hospital and receives wages of about 300 rubles a month. We are therefore doing comparatively well, with a monthly income amounting to 700 rubles, which even in the Soviet Union corresponds to upper middle class.

On account of three attacks of palsy, the left hand side of my body became paralyzed and I suffered from memory loss. In spite of this, my health recovered somewhat, because of the care provided by my wife.

This was the way were living when suddenly, in May 1990, I had an opportunity to visit North Korea after some 30 years.

In the village where I live, there was a young North Korean man by the name of Kim Kwang-hoi. Kim had come to the Soviet Union from North Korea as a graduate research student at the Tashkent Science Research Institute. One day, he happened to visit me and while passing on news about North Korea he asked, "Don't you have any intention to visit your fatherland?" This is how the events that led to my visiting North Korea began. Following this, in February 1990 Major General Kim Chong-chan, a military attache at the North Korean Embassy in Moscow, visited our house, accompanied by Kim Kwang-hoi.

Maj. Gen. Kim, meeting me for the first time, tried his hardest to be cordial, calling me "Operations Bureau commander" [using the honorific suffix "nim"] and asking about my health and all of the hardships of my life.

Maj. Gen. Kim stated, "I am visiting at Leader Kim Il-song's behest." He invited me to visit North Korea, imploring, "The Operations Bureau commander is an individual whose meritorious service in the founding of North Korea is recorded in history. Please visit Pyongyang and see first-hand how the citizens of North Korea are living."

Even though I didn't ask, he even brought up the subject of the events surrounding my purge. He attempted to placate me by saying, "The past incidents were not things done by the Comrade Leader but rather were the results of a plot instigated by those like Kim Kwang-hyop and Kim Chang-man. Please let go of your anger."

Since my physical condition was not that good, my wife was the one who mostly talked with these two individuals. Unable to restrain her feelings upon hearing Maj. Gen. Kim's explanation, she replied, "Don't resort to such shallow acts which shift all the responsibility to subordinates. Sure, you're trying to tell me that Premier Kim Il-song was somehow unaware of the fact that a high ranking officer, with whom he shared the joys and sorrows of the 88th Brigade, and who spent over ten years as the Korean People's Army [KPA] Operations Bureau commander, was subjected to thought examination through a hard, snowy 22-degrees-below-zero winter and was driven out of country like a criminal?"

Maj. Gen. Kim Chong-chan was embarrassed by my wife's rebuttal. He willingly admitted, "In that regard, even Comrade Leader Kim Il-song made a mistake," repeatedly pleading, "Please put all of that in the past and visit Pyongyang."

There was an ulterior motive for these men's words and actions, totally unimaginable in North Korean society. South Korean television had invited all of the Korean residents in the Soviet Union who had participated in the Korean conflict to the upcoming fortieth anniversary of the war. North Korea intended to obstruct these plans.

This thinly-veiled ulterior motive was despicable. However, my wife seemed to really want to go visit her hometown Pyongyang, and even I was unable to shake off my longing for the past. So we accepted their invitation.

The organization which officially invited us was the Korean-Soviet Committee for the Promotion of Unification. This group was formed in response to the rapidly progressing relationship between South Korea and the Soviet Union and the resultant increase in the number of Koreans in the Soviet Union who were visiting South Korea. Its purpose was to foster favorable opinion towards North Korea among the Korean residents in the Soviet Union, and a branch office was even established in Tashkent.

Among the other Koreans residing in the Soviet Union who received invitations along with myself at this time were former high-ranking officials such as Pak Yong-pin, former chief of the Cadre Department of the Worker's Party of Korea [WPK] and his wife; Yi Chun-paek, former member of the WPK Military Commission, and his wife; Yi Soe-ho, former commander of the North Korean Navy, and his wife; Hwang Song-pok, former dean of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute, and his wife.

Our group formed at the Tashkent Station on 03 May and traveled via train to Moscow. In Moscow we were welcomed by employees of the North Korean Embassy. Our group stayed in a motel in Moscow for five days until we departed on 9 May for Pyongyang. We all had to pay our own lodging costs.

Also, each of us in the group donated 200 rubles to buy presents to give to Kim Il-song.

Finally, we loaded ourselves onto a Choson Civil Air plane and headed for Pyongyang, filled with deep emotion as thoughts of the past crossed our minds one after another.

I was expecting one or two of my former partisan comrades-in-arms with whom I had shared joys and sorrows in the 88th Brigade to come out to meet me when we arrived at Sunan Airfield. These included such people as O Chin-u, minister of the People's Armed Forces; Tae Pyong-ryol, curator of the KPA Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum; Kim Yong-yon, dean of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute; and Chon Mun-sop, Veterans Commission chairman [nobyong uiwonjang] (Veterans Commission chairman) [chaehyang kunin hoijang].

When we finally landed at Sunan Airfield, however, the only person to meet us was a guide for the "Central Party Overseas Compatriots Committee," an organization which I had never even heard of.

In any case, our group changed from our travel attire at a guest house on the outskirts of Pyongyang and began our thirteen days of travel throughout North Korea the next day, following an itinerary prepared for us by the North Koreans.

Our travel course included the places customarily shown during visits by overseas compatriots or South Koreans. These included the Chuche Ideology Tower, Mangyongdae, Fatherland Revolutionary Museum, People's Palace of Culture, West Sea Barrage, and Mt. Paektu.

During this trip, I again began to feel a bitter sense of betrayal by Kim Il-song and became disillusioned with North Korean society.

When I visited the place called the Fatherland Liberation War Museum, although pictures and records of the struggles of KPA heroes who participated in the Korean war were on display here, there was absolutely no record of cadres like myself who had been purged. What was even more shocking was that my name was completely omitted from the list of KPA Operations Bureau commanders.

Even my meetings with former war comrades were unpleasant. When I went to the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute, I met the dean of the Institute, Hwang Sun-hui (wife of former tank division commander Yu Kyong-su), for the first time. When she met me, she treated me relatively hospitably. However, she offended me when she asked me to write down a few words praising Kim Il-song. During our trip we were treated rather coldly by North Koreans when they found out that we were compatriots from the Soviet Union.

I figured that this was a result of animosity by North Koreans concerning the Soviet Union's improving ties with South Korea.

Our group was unable to meet former comrades-in-arms, let alone Kim Il-song or Kim Chong-il during our visit. We could not restrain our disappointment, having gone as far as to prepare gifts to give to Kim Il-song.

Since I did not want to remain any longer on North Korean soil, I departed country ahead of schedule on 23 May.

When I departed Pyongyang, the North Koreans gave me a Japanese-made hearing aid which they said was a gift from Kim Chong-il.

After we expressed our displeasure with the inhospitable treatment we received in North Korea after we returned to the Soviet Union, the North Koreans invited our group to visit North Korea a second time in August 1990.

Although I declined this invitation, others visited North Korea again, staying there for one month. Unlike the first visit, they said they received a very warm reception. The group even attended a dinner hosted by Kim Il-song, received a new military uniform with a special promotion to one rank higher than they had previously been in North Korea, and wore the uniform to a military review held in their honor. However, during this period I was already determined to visit South Korea.

* Park Chol-un's Wolgyesu Organization Detailed

912C0039 Seoul IRYO SINMUN in Korean
18 Nov 90 p 10

Article by Kim Si-kwan

[Text] Once again the Wolgyesu [Laurel] organization, the Democratic Liberal Party's most important organization, is being passed around political circles as a hot potato. This is because DLP Executive Committee Chairman Kim Yong-sam, who is raising the temperature to exploit the road to power, is doing all he can to get rid of the competition.

Chairman Kim, right after a meeting at the Blue House on 6 November, made official the position: "Private organizations are devoting themselves to party activities, and are damaging the party as a whole," so all organizations within the party will be consolidated. In conjunction with this, politicians in Kim's camp stated that those private organizations subject to the position would include the Wolgyesu organization, the Minchongtong organization (a group of party assemblymen who left the Earth Party after the three major parties were unified), the Minu organization (a group of optimists and those who lost in elections after the Sixth Republic was formed), and the Minjusanak organization.

Just what is this Wolgyesu organization, which has generated a crisis mentality for Kim, who has walked the path of politics for 40 years with endurance and emotion?

The Wolgyesu organization, presided over by Assemblyman Yi Chae-hwang, a member of former Foreign Minister Pak's circle, started out with an office in the Kwanghwa-mun area on 30 June 1987, just a day after No Tae-u made his 29 June proclamation. Just before the presidential elections, the Wolgyesu organization was comprised of 2 million members in 180 organizational units, and directly after the elections, Pak was appointed as an advisor to President No at the postelection congratulatory party and Yi Chae-Hwang was appointed as President of the Wolgyesu organization; since then, it has been firmly established as the "Pak-Yi System."

The Wolgyesu organization made it known after an interim assessment meeting held last February that the enormous organization had been reorganized, and now a 40,000 member core group is being formed, centering around 40 or so key units. The approximately 40 units of the organization have set up about 700 directors and each unit contains 300-500 members; each region is going under self-management.

The Wolgyesu organization has not fully revealed the scope and extent of formation of the units, but it has become known that it is led by medium and small business officials, with people from financial, academic, legal and womens' circles. Along with this, each region has its own unit, and these regional units are pursuing expansion of their own groups.

At the current time, the organization as it has been revealed is active in the Seoul area as the Korean Democratic Youth League, consisting of college students coming out of Kyongbuk High School in Taegu City, the League for Research of Citizens' Problems of the Future and the Chongui Association led by Chong Seng-uk, who is a second cousin to President No on his father's side, the Sobu District Cultural Research Association, the 2-1 Association, the 80 Association, the Kyongsin Association, and the Kungchin Association. In Pusan, activity centers on youth and womens' circles through the Regional Issues Research Institute and the Youth Issues Research Institute.

In Taegu, where activity centers around the Taechi Association and the Kumho Association, there is a new rapid expansion going on in direct and indirect support from graduates from Kyongbuk High School.

Aside from this, we should also point out that Wolgyesu organization is placing emphasis on "underwater" activities through subsidiary organizations such as the Tamna Association (Cheju Island), the Chungu Association (North Chungchong Province), the Noryong Association (North Cholla Province), Chongmin Association (South Chungchong Province), Chongnim Association (Taejon City) Mudung Association (Kwangju City), and the Chonnam Association (South Cholla Province). It has become widely known that the Wolgyesu organization, subdivided into an organization like this, will, as a single organiztion that has obtained the most members, probably assume the role as a vanguard unit for the DLP and a division of suppporters for Pak Chol-un in case of emergency.

Chairman Kim's crisis mentality is being fostered by the actual existence of this enormous organization.

However, the Wolgyesu organization's response to what is called Chairman Kim's "emasculation strategy" has been very cold. Some sources in the Wolgyesu organization have directly challenged Chairman Kim's offensive calling for "dissolution of private organizations" in stating that "the Wolgyesu organization is not a private organization."

In the case of the Blue House, through unofficial channels the position continues to swirl around that "the issue of dissolving private organizations was never discussed." Ranking Assemblyman Pak and Kim Chong-pil revealed negative perceptions of this and said at a luncheon welcoming Chairman Kim back to party affairs that "it was an action that would only bring new strife."

It is our feeling that the disunity within the DLP surrounding the problem of dissolving the Wolgyesu organization has taken a new turn since 10 November.

This is because Chairman Kim, who intended that all existing organizations should be dissolved when he said that he "will not tolerate any organization that breaks with the official discipline of the party," is taking one step backward when he said that "in the future, private organizations that hamper the official discipline of the party will not be tolerated." We can find the source of this retreat in the fact that no special duties or methods can be found in defining a private organization.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Gulf Prompts Postponement of Commonwealth Meeting

BK0901085891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0607 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has agreed to postpone the meeting of the high-level appraisal group on the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond because of uncertainties arising from the Gulf crisis.

The Foreign Ministry said Wednesday the prime minister, who heads the group, was scheduled to chair the meeting in London from Jan 21 to 22 this year.

Dr. Mahathir had requested Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku to inform other members of the group of the postponement and decide on new dates for the meeting, it said in a statement.

The group, comprising heads of government of Australia, Bahamas, Britain, Canada, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, and Zambia was set up during the Commonwealth summit here in October 1989.

The group was given the task of charting new roles for the Commonwealth into the 1990s and beyond.

A BERNAMA report from London Tuesday night quoted the Commonwealth Secretariat as saying that the meeting was now expected to be held by middle of the year.

Commentary Views Trade Bloc, Singapore Support

BK0901123091 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia's proposal for the setting up of an East Asian economic grouping has received the support and encouragement of the Republic of Singapore. This was revealed after talks between the Singapore premier, Goh Chok Tong, and the visiting Malaysian minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, two days ago.

The [words indistinct] reported that the two countries had agreed on the need to consolidate cooperation in the region to make it an economic power in terms of trade and investment. And Mr. Goh is also in consonance with Malaysia's view that ASEAN officials should meet soon to fine-tune the proposal and look into how such a grouping can be evolved.

The idea for the formation of an Asian trading bloc was voiced by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed just before the failure of the last session of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, MTN, under GATT, to come to a successful and satisfactory conclusion as scheduled before the end of last year.

Dr. Mahathir called for the establishment of a common market or free trade area in Asia in the face of increased protectionism among developed countries. His proposal can indeed be considered timely in view of the setting up of trade and economic links between Australia and New Zealand, the United States and Canada, the United States and Mexico, and the move toward economic union in the European Community, EC.

The Asian trading bloc was proposed to be aimed at balancing or countering such economic groupings. Asian countries are clearly disappointed with the way the Uruguay Round of MTN had proceeded over more than four years since they began in 1986.

The industrialized countries showed little inclination to recognize the aspirations of the developing nations for a fair share in the international trading system. Some of the Asian countries have gone to the extent of eliminating many trade restrictions and offering additional concessions in the form of tariff reductions in order to have the GATT talks come to a conclusion that will be for the benefit of all. But these gestures were apparently ignored by the developed countries in the quest for promoting their own interests.

What can the developing countries, especially those of the East Asian region, do in such a situation? The formation of a trade bloc of its own may provide the outlet. It is not possible to predict what form such an economic grouping will take. Malaysia would like to seek the views of its ASEAN partners to arrive at a consensus [words indistinct] while enhancing the bargaining power of the countries in the region in global trade and international trade negotiations.

Nevertheless, as Datuk Sri Rafidah said, the proposed group should work within the principles of GATT and avoid the creation of unnecessary barriers to a third-country import. Apart from the ASEAN countries, it is expected that China, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea will be invited to join the proposed trade bloc. For the past four years industrialized nations have shown greater attention toward establishing trading blocs of their own. They try to ignore the fact that the Asia-Pacific region has some of the world's fastest growing economies, is on the course toward becoming the growth center of the world over the next few decades.

The creation of an East Asian trading bloc will help to (?jolt) the rest to become more aware of the region's importance in international trade. Malaysia is hopeful that her proposal for such a grouping will meet with positive response from all her ASEAN partners and [words indistinct] of all countries of the East Asian region.

Cambodia

Heng Samrin Visits Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey

BK0801123291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 8 Jan 91

["Report on activities of Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province"]

[Text] Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, traveled to Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province on 7 January to preside over a mass meeting to mark the 12th anniversary of the 7 January National Day and to plant a pipal tree there.

Accompanying the general secretary were Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chef de cabinet of the party Central Committee, and chairman of the Central Organization Commission; Comrade Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairwoman of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions; Comrade Lt. Gen. Nhim Vanda, member of the party Central Committee, trade minister, deputy defense minister, and chief of the Defense Ministry's General Logistics Department; Comrade Im Chhunlim, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy chef de Cabinet of the party Central Committee; Comrade Lt. Gen. Nuon Sok, deputy defense minister and commander of the Navy Department; Comrade Maj. Gen. Loy Sophat, deputy interior minister; Comrade So Khun, deputy agriculture minister; Comrade Chey Kanhnha, deputy health minister; Comrade Men Chhan, permanent member of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council and member of the Council of State; as well as a number of other cadres.

During his two-day stay in Siem Reap Province, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin met and distributed gifts to core cadres in the province, cadres and combatants in the 4th Military Region, the provincial armed unit, and families of disabled and fallen combatants.

On the morning of 8 January, Comrade Heng Samrin participated in a mass meeting to mark the 12th anniversary of the 7 January Liberation Day, planting a pipal tree and offering alms in front of the grand hotel Angkor.

At 1530 on the same day, the party-state delegation led by Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin returned to Phnom Penh safely.

Address in Province Reported

BK0901073191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Report with excerpts of a recorded speech by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, at a meeting in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province on 8 January to mark the 12th anniversary of the 7 January National Day]

[Summary] "On the morning of 8 January, the state authorities and all strata of people and masses in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province held a solemn meeting to mark the 12th anniversary of the National Day and to plant a sacred pipal tree."

"Among those present at this historic meeting were many German and U.S. reporters, archeologists, and Americans who took part in the ceremony and filmed the joyous occasion."

"At 0800, the presidium arrived under loud applause. Among the members of the presidium were Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State; Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chef de cabinet of the party Central Committee cabinet, and chairman of the Central Organization commission; Comrade Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; Comrade Lt. Gen. Nhim Vanda, member of the party Central Committee, trade minister, deputy defense minister, and chief of the Logistics Department; Comrade Neou Sam, member of the party Central Committee, and secretary of the Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province's party committee; Comrade Im Chhunlim, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy chief of the party Central Committee cabinet; Comrade Lt. Gen. Nuon Sok, deputy defense minister; Comrade Maj. Gen. Loy Sophat, deputy interior minister; Comrade So Khun, deputy agriculture minister; Comrade Chey Kanhnha, deputy health minister; Comrade Leng Vi, chairman of the Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey provincial people's committee; Comrade Maj. Gen. Long Sopheap, commander of the 4th Military Region; and many other provincial leaders."

[Begin Heng Samrin recording] "After the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops, the enemies many times attacked a number of areas in our Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province in an attempt to seize our Angkor Wat area and use it as the so-called liberated zone to oppose us. But they were defeated and failed to achieve their ambitions."

"May the pipal tree we are planting today grow and become the symbol of peace and happiness of Buddhists in our Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province as well as throughout the country." "May the spirit of Buddhism awaken those who are blinded by greed, power, and personal interests, to seek peace for the nation and people and unite in building a long-lasting peaceful and happy Cambodian motherland." [end recording]

Tie Banh Greets Combatants on 12th National Day

BK0801110091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Message of greetings from Defense Minister General Tie Banh to combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces on the 12th anniversary of the 7 January National Day—announcer-read]

[Text] Beloved cadres and male and female combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF]: The day of 7 January is the 12th anniversary of our people's historic victory over the genocidal Polpotist clique. It is also the day when our people and Cambodian motherland were reborn in the new flourishing regime under the intelligent leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP].

On behalf of the Defense Ministry and in my own name, I would like, with the most sincere sentiments of affection, to greet and convey best wishes to all of you throughout the country who have been on a mission of defending the motherland and the people's well-being. I would also like to gratefully extend greetings to cadres, combatants, militiamen, and militant workers who are being hospitalized at various hospitals, as well as fathers, mothers, sisters, and all the relatives who have sacrificed their cherished children, siblings, and husbands to the cause of the nation and motherland.

I would like to pay tribute to the souls of cadres, combatants, militiamen, and militant workers who have lost their lives with glory for the cause of the nation's independence and the people's well-being. I also wish to sincerely extoll our outstanding heroic cadres and combatants for their sacrifices to further enhancing their tradition of courageous and brave struggle by standing firm on the battlefield in the west of the motherland and inflicting heavy setbacks on and dispiriting the enemies in every battle.

All beloved comrades and friends: Under the correct leadership of the KPRP during the last 12 years, our CPAF and people's genuine cause of struggle for defending and rebuilding the nation and preventing the recurrence of the genocidal danger has successively won splendid victories in all fields. In particular, we have been able to keep the military and security situation under control since our forces themselves assumed the national defense task—which was in the first stage faced with the most complicated difficulty—effectively maintaining stability all over the country.

The great strategic success achieved by the CPAF during the 1989-90 dry season and the victory won during the recent overall military campaign in western Cambodia have been the telling blow against the three traitorous Cambodian gangs, which have beeen supported by some international reactionary forces, causing them to suffer serious defeats.

To date, our CPAF have strengthened their fighting capability on all battlefields, and it can be said that no reactionary forces can ever reverse this situation. Even faced with heavy setbacks, the enemies have not changed their traitorous nature in the least. Our enemies have no genuine goodwill whatsoever in seeking a political solution to the Cambodian problem so as to ensure a lasting peace for our people. They remain stubborn and continue to collude with a number of international reactionary forces to carry on their adventurous activities on the military, political, and diplomatic fields with the aim of deposing the State of Cambodia with all manner of means.

Therefore, our CPAF and people's struggle has thus far remained most arduous, decisive, and complicated, requiring our entire Armed Forces to heighten their vigilance by not being self-satisfied with the successes achieved and careless about allowing the enemies the opportunity to reinforce their positions and become vigorous on the battlefields.

All of you should continue to bring to success the strategic objective defined by the fifth party congress. At present, you should collectively strive to successfully implement your task during this dry season by further upholding the fighting tradition in order to prevent the danger of genocide at all costs and to safeguard the national sovereignty and right to self-determination of the Cambodian people. You should do your best to prove yourselves as the popular forces born from the people, fighting with honesty for the sake of the people's interest.

I would again like to wish all of you the best of health and every success in the implementation of the task entrusted by the party and people.

SRV, Laos Send Leaders National Day Greetings

BK0801073291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0449 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 8—Cambodian party and state leaders have received messages of greetings from their Vietnamese and Lao counterparts on the 12th National Day of Cambodia (Jan.7).

[One of] the message was addressed by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, State Council President Vo Chi Cong, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi, and National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao, to Party General Secretary and State Council President Heng Samrin, National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen.

After praising the great achievements of the Cambodian people in the military, political and diplomatic fields over the past 12 years, the message said:

"The Vietnamese people highly value and fully support the correct stance and goodwill of the State of Cambodia in seeking a fair and reasonable political solution to the

Cambodia problem on the basis of respecting the independence, sovereignty and the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people, in conformity with the United Nations Charter, with the aim to prevent the return to power of the genocidal regime in Cambodia.

"We are very glad to see the constant consolidation and development of the friendship and the close cooperation in all fields between Vietnam and Cambodia aver the past 12 years on the basis of equality and mutual trust. The Vietnamese people will do their utmost to protect and cultivate these loyal and pure relations and make them blooming and fruitful. The Vietnamese people constantly and resolutely support the just cause of the fraternal Cambodian people for a peaceful, independent, neutral and nonaligned Cambodia as well as for a peaceful, stable, friendly and cooperative Southeast Asia."

The message also wished the solidarity, friendship, and close and all-round cooperation between the two countries further consolidation and development.

The message from General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, acting President Phoumi Vongvichit, and Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the People's Supreme Assembly, extended their warm greetings and best wishes to the Cambodian leaders, and through them, to the PRPK Central Committee, the State Council, the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers and the fraternal people of the State of Cambodia.

The message hailed the Cambodian people's great successive victories in national defence and reconstruction, their great efforts in overcoming difficulties and defeating the enemy's subversive plots. These have contributed to the consolidation of the might of the three Indochinese countries.

The LPRP, govermment and people of Laos wholeheartedly support the solution to the Cambodian problem forwarded by the State of Cambodia on the basis of national reconciliation and new proposals imbued with goodwill of the party, government and people of Cambobia," it said.

The Lao leaders wished the relations of great friendship, special militant solidarity and all-round cooperation between the parties, states and peoples of Laos and Cambodia, further strengthening and development, and wished the fraternal Cambodian people greater successes.

Also on this occasion, Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut greeted his Cambodian counterpart, Hor Namhong.

Radio Views Pol Pot Plans To 'Topple' Regime

BK0801063591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Station commentary: "Another Dream of the Pol Pot Clique"]

[Text] The Pol Pot clique was toppled completely by our people 12 full years ago, today.

Also today, our nation, our beloved land of Angkor, has been revived for 12 years.

During the past 12 years, although it has suffered serious and shameful defeats, the genocidal clique has not remained quiet even for one minute. With every beat of its heart, the clique has continued to think of schemes enabling it to return to vengefully massacre our people again.

With the assistance, openly and secretly, of the international reactionaries and the collusion of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann, during the past 12 years, the Pol Pot clique made several vain attempts. But in all these attempts, the clique was attacked and subdued by our victorious Cambodian People's Armed Forces and valiant people. Thus, all the Pol Pot clique could do was dream of liberating the entire country this or that year, setting up this or that percent of village and commune authority, and so forth.

In fact, the clique is still the same old bandit gang which has continued robbing and massacring innocent people in remote areas, shooting at railways and cars in mountainous and forest areas, destroying bridges, water pipes, and roads, and burning down schools, monasteries, and people's homes. But these unchanging criminal activities of this bloodthirsty clique could not cow nor discourage our people. On the contrary, our people have nurtured greater hatred against the clique and taken part in preventing this clique of criminals from returning for the second time.

Having failed to realize its insane design through these acts, the Pol Pot clique has built a new dream that if all Vietnamese volunteer troops were withdrawn from Cambodia, it might be able to realize this dark design.

Some other individuals, including Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, also agree with the Pol Pot clique that if Vietnam withdraws totally from Cambodia, the Government of the State of Cambodia would be blown away like a piece of paper. Some even said that the Government of the State of Cambodia will collapse at once.

Actual facts clearly show that since the last batch of Vietnamese volunteer troops left Cambodia, the State of Cambodia has not collapsed. In addition, it has become even more stable in all aspects and its prestige has become widely known in the international arena. Some countries have even signed trade contacts with it.

During the past more than a year, although the clique and its allies have used all of their existing potential, they have achieved nothing. Therefore, in order to redeem themselves from this bitter situation, they have kept clamoring about their victories, claiming a number of remote localities that our people deserted dozens of years ago, such as the towns of Soriya, Thmar Puok, and Pailin, as being their districts.

Again recently, they claimed that they occupied some areas in the northeastern part of the country. This delusive boast can fool no one. Particularly, their rank and file have become demoralized and hopeless with such a dream. They have deserted the battlefield and fled. Some of them turned themselves in and asked for permission to live in our national society.

All these events have alarmed the criminal Pol Pot clique and its allies to the point that they have turned to dream of the UN peacekeeping force. They have vigorously propagated that in the near future, the UN peacekeeping force will come to topple the State of Cambodia. At the same time, they have ordered their close henchmen to intensify the formation of so-called village and commune national councils.

The main aim of this latest dream is to encourage their rank and file to fight on and discourage our armed forces, authorities, and people. But, it is known to all that the United Nations was formed for preserving international peace and security and not for toppling any member state as these elements have thought.

Therefore, this latest dream is just a fantasy of hopeless persons. But, this dream will not come true.

Hun Sen Denies SRV Culture Imposed on Citizens

BK0901102591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Summary] "On the morning of 7 January, a solemn ceremony was held in Peam Chor District of Prey Veng Province to inaugurate the Reasmei Samakki High School.

Present in the presidium were Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Gen. Sin Song, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and interior minister; Comrade Kong Sam-ol, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Dit Munti, member of the party Central Committee, chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission, and first deputy foreign minister; Comrade Yos Son, member of the party Central Committee and education minister; Comrade Lieutenant General Ke Kimyan, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy defense minister; Comrade Yut Phuthang, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the party committee in Prey Veng Province; Comrade Chea Chanto, alternate member of the party Central Committee and minister of Planning; Comrade Em Sam-an, alternate member of the party Central Committee and director general of SPK; Comrade Major General Sam Neat, deputy interior minister; Comrade Sar Not, deputy minister attached to the cabinet of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Sbaong Sarat, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee, and Comrade Mey Lach, secretary of Peam Chor District's provisional party committee."

In his address following a report presented by the committee charged with building the high school, Hun Sen praised the local people for their achievements scored during the past 12 years and thanked all donors and villagers for their contributions and efforts in erecting the school. He said: "The school is the fruit of the efforts of both our people inside the country and our patriotic compatriots overseas. Therefore, we call this educational establishment Sala Samakki [School of Solidarity]."

Hun Sen continued his speech, denouncing the Cambodian resistance gr[illegible]s for accusing the Cambodian State of teaching Cambodian children to write Vietnamese and forcing Cambodian women to wear traditional Vietnamese costumes, Cambodians to marry Vietnamese, and Buddhist monks to wear the popular Vietnamese cone hat. He said, "But our compatriots who have a well-defined stance of not listening to the manipulative enemy propaganda have clearly understood these issues. They always think of the fate and future of the country and are concerned over the disappearance of the nation's traditional and cultural heritage and literature. I have told our compatriots overseas that if they are afraid that the nation's colors disappear and if they are not able to assist in development projects, they are invited to help construct schools and hospitals. If we have enough schools for Cambodian children to learn the Cambodian alphabet and language and when the Cambodian people are healthy, then the Cambodian nation will never become extinct. The Cambodian nation will continue to exist; no one can ever annihilate it."

Hun Sen held the Pol Pot group accountable for systematically eradicating the educational system in Cambodia and recounted successes achieved by the State of Cambodia in education over the last 12 years, saying "Today, the school here is the achievement of the joint efforts of those inside and outside the country as well as foreigners who have compassion for our people. However, while we are striving to build schools, our enemies have destroyed them. Wherever they are able to sneak in, they are not afraid to decimate them." Hun Sen then asked the local people to take good care of the school and to increase vigilance in protecting it from enemy sabotage. He also urged teachers to increase efforts to provide effective education to the local children, and called for striving harder to improve the country's educational system.

In conclusion, Hun Sen again thanked all donors for their contributions to the construction of the school. He declared the school open and conveyed his best wishes to all participants.

Phnom Penh Cites Dec Success in Kompong Cham

BK0401140791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] To win armed victories to celebrate the 7 January National Day, the armed forces throughout the 2d Military Region launched counterattacks against a group of enemy soldiers who sneaked into some outlying forested and mountainous areas east of the Mekong River in Kompong Cham Province, inflicting heavy defeats on them.

As a matter of fact, between 17 and 22 December, by keenly using our combined forces, combined measures, and combined means, our armed forces killed 32 Pol Pot bandits, wounded seven, took 93 prisoner, and forced 19 others to surrender. They also seized 27 assorted weapons and destroyed 39 shelters, including 36 shelters of the Pol Pot army's 902d Division.

In the same period, nearly 2,500 inhabitants jointly cleared 229 hectares of bush.

Government Troops Put 84 Soldiers 'Out of Action'

BK0701122491 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1130 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 7 Jan (SPK)—During the week ending 29 December, the opposition forces intensified artillery shelling to cover up their infiltrations in some border regions of Kompong Thom and Banteay Meanchey Provinces.

In their return fire against enemy attacks in these regions, the government forces put out of action a total of 84 enemy soldiers, including 61 killed on the spot, six taken prisoner, and 17 others forced to surrender. They also seized 55 weapons and destroyed 77 barracks of the reactionary Khmer.

It should be noted that in 1990 the armed forces of Kompong Speu Province, 50 km west of Phnom Penh, alone put out of action 64 enemy soldiers, including 32 killed, 26 wounded, and six captured. They seized 42 weapons, a walkie-talkie, and other war materiel.

National Council Established in Kompong Leng

BK0601095791 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report from Kompong Leng District of Kompong Chhnang Province, our people's great national union forces in the district on 30 December held a meeting with the participation of 195 members. Following are the five significant points of the conclave:

1. The meeting announced the dissolution of the state authority of the Vietnamese race-exterminating enemy aggressors and traitorous puppets and Vietnamese lackeys Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim in the district and replaced it with a national council.

2. The meeting voiced support for the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

3. The meeting fully endorsed all the documents for settling the Vietnamese race-exterminating war of aggression recently forged by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council:

A. The 28 August 1990 blueprint hammered out by the five UN Security Council permanent members, which demands that the Vietnamese race-exterminating enemy aggressors withdraw all categories of their aggressor forces from Cambodia under strict UN verification.

B. The 10 September 1990 Jakarta document with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman [as heard].

C. The Resolution 668/1990 of the plenary UN Security Council.

D. The detailed 29 November 1990 document of the Paris conference cochairmen and the five UN Security Council permanent members.

E. The 23 December 1990 Paris joint statement.

4. The meeting vowed to continue to more zealously implement the great national union policy, with disregard for black or white political orientation and black, blue, or red Cambodians and without splits or bickering. This is to unite the forces of the entire great national union with a view to fighting to drive out the Vietnamese race-exterminating enemy aggressors and puppet leaders and Vietnamese lackeys Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim and to force them to respect and implement the above-mentioned five major documents, thereby restoring independence and peace to Cambodia as quickly as possible.

5. The meeting condemned the Vietnamese race-exterminating enemy aggressors and traitorous puppet leaders and Vietnamese lackeys Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim for their stubbornness in carrying on late Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese federation strategy for the purpose of expunging the Cambodian race.

The report further said that our people in Kompong Leng District were extremely pleased with the establishment of the national council there. Everyone pledged to continue joining forces with the local national council to carry out all kinds of activities until Cambodia is completely and definitely liberated from the control of the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors and puppet leaders and Vietnamese lackeys Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim.

Laos

Government Marks Cambodia's Liberation Day

Leaders Greet Heng Samrin

BK0501105091 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Vientiane, Jan. 5 (KPL)—Lao party and state leaders on the occasion of the 12th national day of Cambodia, jointly sent telegram of greetings to the General Secretary Heng Samrin of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] Central Committee and president of the State Council of the State of Cambodia, Chea Sim, president of Cambodian National Assembly, and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia.

The message was signed by the general secretary Kaysone Phomvihan of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit, and Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the People's Supreme Assembly.

The telegram was sent on behalf of the LPRP Executive Committee, the People's Supreme Assembly, the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to extend the Lao leaders' best regards, warm greetings, and best wishes to the Cambodian leaders and through them to the PRPK Executive Committee, the State Council, the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers and frateral people of the State of Cambodia.

The telegram has hailed the Cambodian people's successive great victories, in the national defence and reconstruction, their great efforts in overcoming difficulties and defeating the enemy's subversive plots. These have contributed to the consolidation of the might of the three Indochinese countries.

The LPRP, Government and people of Laos wholeheartedly support the solution to the Cambodian problem forwarded by the State of Cambodia on the basis of national reconciliation and new proposals imbued with good will of the party, government, and people of Cambodia.

The Lao leaders wished the relations of great friendship, the special militant solidarity, and the all-round cooperation between the parties, states and peoples of Laos and Cambodia, be developed and strengthened, and wished the fraternal Cambodian people greater success.

On this occasion, Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut also sent a similar telegram to his Cambodian counterpart Hor Namhong.

Phoumi Vongvichit Greets Chea Sim

BK0901061391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 12th National Day anniversary of the State of Cambodia, 7 January, Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, acting president of the Republic, and chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], has sent a greetings message to Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD], Phnom Penh. The message reads as follows:

On the occasion of the celebration of the 12th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Cambodia, 7 January, on behalf of the LFNC Central Committee, the multiethnic Lao people, and in my own name, I would like to convey warm salutations and best wishes to you, comrade chairman of the National Council of the KUFNCD, and all fraternal Cambodian people. Throughout the past 12 years, under the clear-sighted leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP], the heroic, industrious, and persistent Cambodian people have won great achievements and victories in rebuilding their life; building and developing the economy, culture, and society; and achieving national reconciliation, thus securely safeguarding peace, national independence, democracy, and territorial integrity of their country.

Following these achievements and victories of the correct, just, and consistent policy, the roles, status, and prestige of the State of Cambodia have been raised to an ever higher level with every passing day in the international arena. Our LFNC and Lao people are elated and proud over the achievements and victories won by the fraternal Cambodian people and regard those achievements and victories as our own.

On this glorious occasion, we wish you, comrade chairman of the KUFNCD National Council, comrade members of the front committees, and all fraternal Cambodia people new, still greater achievements in carrying out the tasks in accordance with the spirit of the fifth resolution adopted by the KPRP.

May the relations of friendship and special solidarity between the two peoples of Laos and Cambodia be fruitfully and increasingly developed and last forever!

Phoun Sipaseut Attends Burmese Anniversary Event

BK0601094691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] On the evening of 4 January, U Oung Oung, charge d'affaires of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] to Laos, and his wife organized a reception at the embassy in Vientiane on the occasion of the 43d anniversary of Myanmar's National Day. Attending the reception were

Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, along with ministers, deputy ministers, and many cadres from various services.

Joint Thai Military Committees Hold Meeting

BK0701085391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The monthly meeting in January 1991 of the Joint Military Committees of Laos and Thailand was hosted by the Lao side at Laos' Meuang Phe village in Boten District, Sayaboury Province yesterday afternoon. The Lao side was led by Colonel Phommachak Soutthisan, head of the Lao-Thai Joint Military Committee and the Thai side by Major General Wirot Wachirawat, head of the Thai-Lao Joint Military Committee. Appropriate local officials from both countries also attended the meeting.

Both sides informed each other about developments along the common border during the past month and discussed ways to further promote contacts between the Lao and Thai peoples living in the border areas.

Colonel Phommachak Soutthisan told our correspondent during an interview after the meeting that the Lao side informed the Thai side that on 17 December 1990, eight Thai border policemen, fully armed, crossed the border into Lao territory as far as 8 kilometers in Champassak Province and recommended that the Thai side refrain from launching any construction project in the border areas where the demarcation line has not yet been clearly defined to avoid conflict and impairment of natural environment in such areas. The Lao side also called on the Thai side to prevent a number of bad elements who are colluding with the Lao exiled reactionaries from crossing the border into Laos and search for Lao exiled reactionaries hiding in Lao refugee camps. He said: The Thai side has shown its readiness to help solve all problems raised for discussion during the meeting.

Daily on Possible Subversive Effect of Thai Trade

BK0801113691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 4 Jan 91

[PASASON Article: "Beware of Invisible Bullets"]

[Text] Following the restructuring of the country's economy, especially since the declaration of Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan's policy of turning Indochinese countries into markets, trade relations between Laos and Thailand have further expanded to a considerable extent.

According to official statistics, as many as 600 Thai companies are now engaged in trade with Laos. The rapid expansion of trade between the two countries has aided the development of Laos' economy and also created many problems for the Lao side. For example, the Lao people tend to prefer imported goods to locally-made products. Apart from Thailand, the northern and eastern border provinces are also trading with China and Vietnam under the agreements Laos recently signed with the two countries. Therefore, products from Vietnam, China, Thailand, and many other countries are plentiful in markets in Vientiane, as well as other places nationwide.

The presence of foreign products in these markets might demoralize production units such as those engaged in agriculture and handicrafts in our country. But the entire Lao people, with a tradition of diligence and industriousness, will not let such a negative phenomenon take place. They can learn the modern method of production and new technologies to improve their production in the agricultural, handicraft, and other fields. Hence, they can gradually learn the rule of market competitiveness and find ways to use the market demand to activate production in the country. Meanwhile, these new developments must be closely linked with the maintenance of social peace and order and defense of our most beloved country.

Thailand's KHAO PHISET magazine published in its 17 and 23 December 1990 issues an article noting that the Lao Government's fear of the rightists is similar to the Thai Government's fear of the Communist Party of Thailand. The article continues: Thai companies may have received financial support from Lao refugees in foreign countries to invest in Laos and start attacking Laos with invisible bullets. This article was written out of good intentions because it wants to see both Laos and Thailand taking preventive measures against such an incident.

This is not the first time the Thai mass media has commented on Lao refugees in foreign countries and the Lao Government. Recently, a Thai weekly claimed that the Lao people are still waiting for the exiled rectionaries to rebuild the country for them. Naturally, both countries benefit from bilateral trade. The Thai side once promised to the Lao side that it would disarm the exiled Lao reactionaries in Thailand and send them to refugee camps that would be moved deep into Thai territory.

During his latest visit to Laos, Thai Military Supreme Commander Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong said: The suppression of the exiled Lao reactionaries should be carried out for the benefit of friendly relations between the two countries. If Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong's words are not going to be put into practice, the current expansion of Lao-Thai trade relations will provide conditions convenient for the exiled Lao reactionaries to attack Laos with invisible bullets. If so, the Lao people and Lao businessmen must enhance their self-vigilance for the sake of national security while the Thai businessmen and Thai people must help the Lao people, as both sides have agreed to eliminate the Lao exiled reactionaries along the common border of the two countries to pave the way for expansion of Lao-Thai trade

relations and development of good neighborly relations between Laos and Thailand.

Article Reviews Development in Mountain Regions

BK0801153391 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Feature article by Khamdi Vansai: "The Mountainous Region Development Company, Victory of the Combination of the Economic Work With the National Defense Work in the Lao People's Democratic Republic"]

[Text] In our Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], as much as two-thirds of the land is covered with mountains and forests. These mountainous areas cover not only the eastern regions, but also the entire country—from the northernmost to the southernmost regions. The mountainous areas are considered areas where the national economic strengths are maintained. The 11 million hectares of forestland in our country is full of valuable trees of various types which serve as a source of electric power. It is also full of varieties of forestry products. These mountainous areas have created great prospects for crop cultivation and livestock breeding. Throughout these mountainous areas are various vast plateaus, such as the Xieng Khouang, the Nakai, and the Bolovens plateaus.

These mountainous areas can well serve as important strategic points. Many tumultuous combat operations took place in the mountainous areas in northern Laos during the three-year period of the revolutionary war to liberate the country. Those areas served as the bases for Tiao Fa Phatchai [former Lao hero] to carry out the struggle against the French colonialists between 1918 and 1922. The mountainous areas in central Laos served as positions for the Ong Keo-Ong Kommadam group to carry out the struggle which took place between 1901 and 1931. Part of the mountainous areas in southern Laos significantly served as the Ho Chi Minh trail system of the three Indochinese countries—Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia—during the struggle against the U.S. imperialists. Most of the major positions and strongholds of militia-guerrilla forces in Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha, Oudomsai, Sayaboury, Vientiane, and other provinces were situated in mountainous areas and townships. This was why following the struggle, Hom district town in Vientiane Province, Dakchoung district town in Sekong Province, and some other towns in other provinces have been named heroic towns.

Recently, the exiled Vietnamese reactionaries, who sneaked into Laos in an attempt to pass through Lao territory to Vietnam from Thailand with the hope of creating disturbances and sabotaging the revolution in Vietnam, were disrupted, defeated, and destroyed in a mountainous area in the southeastern part of Laos. Fraternal tribal people living in the mountainous areas experienced difficulties, both in terms of materials and spirit, in earning their living. They suffered from poverty and lacked medicine when they got sick. Their children rarely had an opportunity to study. Foreign reactionaries then took advantage of that situation to control those mountainous areas from where they could pursue their dark schemes aimed at sabotaging the revolution in the three Indochinese countries.

In view of that situation, in 1984 the LPDR Council of Ministers issued a decree on the establishment of the Mountainous Region Development Company under the National Defense Ministry in order to implement the line of combining the economic work with the national defense work and vice versa with a view to systematically building and developing the mountainous areas; promoting, expanding, and exploiting the strength in the vicinity; setting up political forces; and consolidating the national defense and public security maintenance system of the country. Initially, the Mountainous Region Development Company originated in the Khamkeut-Laksao area in central Laos. At present, branches of this company have been set up and developed in various provinces in northern and southern Laos. They are all attached to the National Defense Ministry. Cadres and combatants of the Army have served as the main force of the company. The company has been provided with technical cadres by the central and local economic and cultural services, as well as by certain Army units in accordance with the business accounting system.

In the initial stage, those cadres, with shoulder bags, axes, saws, spades, and so forth, were assigned to travel to the mountainous areas and to be stationed in different localities to publicize the plans of the company. At that time, local people, after listening to economic construction plans and plans to build and develop the mountainous areas as publicized by the cadres and combatants, only shook their heads because they did not believe those plans would be realized. But, finally, changes were effected in all respects in the Laksao area as the people did not expect before. Many people did not believe that the Laksao area could be turned into the new, developed shape it is in today. This is because some six years earlier, there was nothing in this area; the local people earned their living only through slash-and-burn cultivation. And not to mention the fact that there was no medicine to take when they were sick. Moreover, a number of tribal people had earned their living in a primitive way for generations. They are people of the Tongleuang and Bikoualeuang tribes. These tribal people had no fixed houses to live in. They lived in small cottages with the roofs made of leaves found in the forests. When the leaves became dry and could no longer keep out the rain or protect from the sun, they would then move to other places.

As of late 1990, the said area has become a mountainous township with a new, developed shape. This has resulted from the efforts and energies of the cadres and combatants together with the fraternal multiethnic people in the area. The number of people in this area has increased rapidly as never expected. At present, the number of people living in this mountainous town has increased to

almost 100,000 as compared to in the past when there were only seven families there. This town is now linked with the roads from Vientiane and Thakhek as well as from the Vietnamese coast.

These roads are available for traffic throughout the dry season. Trucks of various services have now regularly used these roads in transporting various types of goods from one place to another to make exchanges.

Noteworthy here is the school and hospital system. There are now many kindergartens and other formal education schools where more than 300 cadres and teachers altogether have been working and more than 3,500 students have been studying. The formal education schools have been set up throughout the mountainous region. Cafeterias have also been built and improved to serve the teachers and students. More hospitals are being built while equipment and other facilities are being installed at various hospitals. When the construction and installation are completed, these hospitals can accommodate as many as 150 to 200 inpatients.

Along with this, the wood production and processing machinery system, brick and roof tile production, textile production, and other handicraft work have all now been improved and put into an appropriate shape. The exploitation of wood, forest conservation, and afforestation work have been regularly and strictly carried out with support from the fraternal people. At present, the experimental planting of industrial trees of different types, such as coffee and pepper, and a number of fruit trees has been attentively and extensively carried out. Noteworthy is that the irrigation system has now been fruitfully built to serve the requirements in the agricultural production field of the people, in particular the requirements in rice farming, fish raising, and home gardening of those Hmong tribal people in the Thongphe and Nam Phou areas.

At present, the tribal people of the Thongphe village can harvest an annual average of some three metric tons of rice per hectare. In certain years, their rice yield has increased to 5 to 7 metric tons per hectare. Many families have now gained surplus rice. Each family has earned as much as thousands of kips in revenue from selling bananas and pineapples each year. With these surplus revenues, many families can afford to buying radios, tape recorders, bicycles, and others goods. Some families can even afford to buy small tractors and can live in brick houses. They have thus ended the primitive, difficult way of earning of a living.

During the visit by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and chairman of the Council of Ministers, many elderly people pledged that they will absolutely not return to slash-and-burn cultivation or the old way of earning a living even if they are hired, at any cost, to do so. They said that the party, government, and Army have done the right things and that they have been satisfied with what the party, government, and Army have done for them. They added that what the party, government, and Army have done have made the people in each area active and strong.

The achievements and figures in the socioeconomic field as recorded by the Laksao Mountainous Region Development Company are glorious and they have made everybody in the mountainous areas feel very happy and proud. Worthy of note are the valuable, fruitful lessons experienced by the cadres and combatants of various military units who have performed the tasks of building the economy, setting up political bases, and fulfilling the national defense and public security work in those areas. Various units of the Lao People's Army [LPA] stationed in each locality, such as those attached to branches of the Mountainous Region Development Company in Xieng Khouang, Vientiane, Sayaboury, and Champassak Provinces, have now positively taken part in the aforesaid actual practices in carrying out those tasks.

It can be said, therefore, that the Mountainous Region Development Company is considered a new victory in combining the economic work with the national defense work. It has reflected the creative line of the LPRP and is considered to be a great achievement won by the LPA in fulfilling the two strategic tasks of defending and building the country.

Philippines

U.S. Bases Negotiations Resume 9 Jan

HK0901100991 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The talks on the U.S. bases resumed at noon today. Foremost on the agenda are the compensation issue, the timetable for the pullout of the U.S. facilities under the jurisdiction and control of the Philippines, and of the 40,000 military dependents, and the bases' civilian employees. The U.S. is refusing to accept the Philippines' compensation demand because it will allegedly violate a law which gives the U.S. Congress the right to fix the amount the government can afford to pay.

Spokesman Says Talks 'Deadlocked'

HK0901112591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By Cecil Morella]

[Text] Manila, Jan 9 (AFP)—The United States, denouncing Manila's stance of alleged confrontation amid the Gulf standoff, warned Wednesday of "irreparable harm" in bilateral ties if the Philippines insists on a total U.S. military pullout by 1996.

"As Americans prepare to fight and die in the Middle East, Filipinos define their own victory in terms of how many and how quickly U.S. forces can be removed from

their country," U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrager said at a joint news conference as the two countries resumed military bases talks.

"We are afraid that irreparable harm could be done to our relationship, and yet we do not believe that it is being done intentionally," he said, and warned that chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage was "under no pressure" to conclude a new agreement.

Both countries earlier gave themselves until the end of January to forge a new agreement or begin discussing the dismantling of the bases by September.

Philippine spokesman Rafael Alunan declared that the bases talks were "deadlocked," but Mr. Schrager clarified that the U.S. warning was not an ultimatum and both sides expressed hope of surmounting their disagreements.

The main issue was Manila's demand for a U.S. military pullout within five years from September 16, 1991, the end of the 43-year-old bases lease. Washington wants to "phase down" its forces here within a 10 to 12 year transition period, and retain some form of access after that.

Mr. Alunan rejected Mr. Schrager's statement, saying Manila has "done its best to respond to U.S. needs and interests," and that "we expect them now to respond to the Philippines' needs and national aspirations."

Dismissing suggestions that the Philippines had suddenly hardened its stance on a total U.S. phaseout, Mr. Alunan said "the national interest and national sovereignty demand the terminal phaseout of the facilities over a limited period and the conversion of these to alternative uses."

The talks concern Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the largest U.S. overseas military facilities, and four support facilities.

A large U.S. amphibious task force from California sailed from Subic on January 2 on its way to the Gulf.

As the talks turned increasingly polemical, the United States announced a modified negotiating position Wednesday.

"If the Philippine Government should decide against an access agreement during the transition period, phasedown could become phaseout within an agreed-upon time-frame after the end of the transition period," Mr. Schrager said.

"The Philippines has proposed the complete removal of all U.S. forces within five years of September 1991, thereby ruling out in advance the possibility of an access relationship," he added.

Mr. Schrager would not say what the possible consequences would be if the two countries failed to arrive at a new agreement. Washington is Manila's main trade partner and aid donor.

He said Washington "simply cannot manage a five-year phaseout without incurring large expenses."

He also reiterated that the U.S. position was "absolute" on the dispute on criminal jurisdiction over crimes committed by U.S. servicemen in the Philippines. Manila wants to change the current arrangement of joint jurisdiction to sole Philippine jurisdiction.

The two sides also disagree on compensation, with Manila demanding a multi-year fixed rent and Washington insisting on a compensation package approved yearly by the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Schrager said that if the Philippines wished to accelerate the progressive reduction of U.S. forces in the country "and make it an exercise in confrontation, it is their right to do so."

But he cautioned Manila that "if you choose to close your doors now, please do so deliberately, measuring carefully your own needs and the impact your decision will have on U.S. public opinion."

"If you wish to keep the doors open, you will find no shortage of goodwill and cooperation in the U.S. side," he added.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, Manila's chief negotiator, later said he was "proceeding to a possible breakthrough to the impasse that we have been experiencing." He said the two sides had already "laid the framework for an understanding" on the fate of the smaller U.S. installations.

He told reporters they were discussing joint U.S.-Philippine use of the radar unit in the U.S. Wallace Air Station in the north, by 1993, before it is turned over to Manila.

He denied that the talks had been confrontational, adding they would discuss the fate of Clark and Subic in the coming days.

U.S. Urged To Reply

HK0901053191 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The Philippines asked the United States to give its reply regarding the major issues involving the retention of the U.S. bases in the country. These issues include compensation, access operational policies, status of forces, and criminal jurisdiction. In a short press statement read by Philippine panel spokesman Rafael Alunan, the government said that the accord should include the provision on terminal phaseout of military facilities, conversion of bases to alternative use, and adequate and secure compensations during the phaseout period.

Meanwhile, U.S. panel spokesman Stanley Schrager believes there could be heated discussion on the compensation issue. According to him, only the U.S. Congress can decide on the appropriations for the U.S. bases. It will be recalled that the Philippines rejected the best effort pledge because the United States did not fulfill its pledge to pay the Philippines the rent for its military bases.

Congress Issues Conditions

HK0901093991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By Jennifer Postigo]

[Text] The Congress is agreeable to a five to seven years bases extension provided the United States helps ease the country's $28 billion debt repayment and provides Filipinos with waivers of U.S. visa requirements. This was stressed by Negros Oriental Congressman Miguel Romero, one of the leading advocates for U.S. bases phaseout. He said the Philippine Senate would ratify a new treaty for a five to seven years bases extension in the country if the Americans agree to the conditions.

The proposed treaty for the extension-phaseout of the U.S. military facilities is valid up to [word indistinct] to complete the centennial period or the 100th year of U.S. military presence in the Philippines. The proposal, Congressman Romero said, should contain these terms and conditions: First, the cash component in the rental package should not be lower than the present compensation of $500,000 [words indistinct] under the Central Bank's debt payment scheme, which is $0.35 for a dollar. Secondly, Philippine products entering the U.S. under quotas, like sugar and textiles, should be increased by not less than 30 percent. Third, tariff restrictions should not be imposed on products like pineapples or watches, and duty-free treatment should be accorded to all other Philippine products for export. And fourth is waiver on visa requirements for Filipinos wishing to go to the United States within the validity of the treaty. This, according to Romero, is the U.S. Government's policy for Japanese nationals visiting the United States without visas since 1989.

Romero stressed the terms and conditions should be sought and added to the proposed treaty, otherwise the negotiation for the U.S. military bases is just a futile effort.

Group Demands Talks Cancellation

HK0801132991 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Nuclear-Free Philippines [NFP] group is calling for cancellation of the bases negotiations so that the country can avoid being involved in the Middle East war. According to Roland Simbulan, chairman of NFP, the country was inviting war when it allowed the use of Subic and Clark Air Base as launching points for warships and aircraft. The NFP stressed that the nuclear weapons stored in Subic and Clark are part of the Pentagon's nuclear war strategic plan. The NFP is asking the country to participate in diplomatic efforts to avert war.

Saudi Arabia Reaffirms Promise To Help Workers

HK0901120991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed its promise to help the thousands of Filipinos deployed in its land in the event the situation in the Gulf worsens. This was received by Labor Secretary Ruben Torres who is currently in the Middle East to look at the condition of the Filipino workers there. Ron Bayani reports:

[Begin recording] In a report to President Aquino, Torres said the assurance was announced by Saudi Labor Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Fayiz after their meeting yesterday. Torres stated the Saudi Arabian Government has its own contingency plan to ensure the safety of their people and the foreign workers in their country. 'Al-Fayiz extended his thanks to the Philippines for sending a medical team for the multinational force.

The Philippine commission, whose members include Labor Undesecretary Nieves Confesor and Foreign Undersecretary Pablo Suarez, began visiting a Filipino workers' camp in Saudi Arabia yesterday to talk to the workers about the evacuation plan, if war erupts in the Gulf. Torres said the contingency plan for the Filipinos in western Saudi Arabia is the most critical because of its closeness to the place where fighting may take place between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Torres announced that should war occur, about 110,000 Filipinos in eastern Saudi Arabia will be evacuated to Riyadh. He said about 70 percent of Filipino workers in the eastern province are now on the list for evacuation. [end recording]

Military Closely Monitors Husayn Supporters

HK0901115391 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The military is closely monitoring foreigners in the country who are known to be strong supporters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This was the reaction by the Armed Forces of the Philippines after Saddam Husayn threatened that Iraq's reactionary forces will sow terror in all parts of the world. According to Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, the military knows the people in the country who are supportive of Saddam. However, he declined to confirm if these are Iraqi nationals. At present, there are about 1,000 Iraqi nationals in the country, most of whom are students.

Military Accused of Killing Communist Sympathizers

HK0801145991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Angeles, Philippines, Jan 8 (AFP)—Communist insurgent leaders in this northern city, host to the U.S. Clark Air Base, accused the military Tuesday of killing communist sympathizers in a "campaign of terror."

Tomas Matias, spokesman of the banned National Democratic Front (NDF) in Pampanga Province, charged that the military was behind a spate of killings in Angeles and surrounding Pampanga Province that began in late-November.

"The army wants to eliminate the entire NDF movement in Pampanga by doing another Indonesia. We will not allow this to happen," he said, referring to the Indonesian purge of suspected communists in the 1960s.

He did not say what they would do in response to the alleged campaign, although he added that "we would like to avoid a bloody tit for tat in response to this terror campaign."

The NDF is the communist insurgent umbrella group that includes the New People's Army (NPA), a nationwide rural-based guerrilla group.

Twelve people have been killed in the area since late-November. Mr. Matias said at least two of them were known members of the communist insurgency.

Meanwhile, local residents said that soldiers of the local infantry battalion had been distributing a list of 37 people, including local officials, who were allegedly marked for death for assisting communist insurgents.

Military spokesmen denied that they were behind the distribution of the list.

Police Arrest 1987 Coup Plotter in Rizal

HK0901115791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] A former Philippine Navy sailor involved in the failed 1987 coup d'etat and in a series of hold-up and robbery incidents in Metro Manila and suburbs was arrested by authorities. This was announced by the Philippine National Police [PNP]-CIS [Criminal Investigation Service]. Jim Belasano reports:

[Begin recording] In his report to PNP-CIS Chief Pantaleon Dumlao, PNP-CIS Superintendent Lucas Manigelod identified the suspect as former Seaman First Class Jose Pedragosa. Pedragosa was arrested by the CIS' national capital district, under the leadership of Chief Inspector Ruben Zacarias and Senior Inspector Gil Meneses in Padilla Village, Antipolo, Rizal last Saturday. In the investigation, it was stated that the suspect was a former member of the 5th GHQ [General Headquarters] battalion under Colonel Warlito Siam and was assigned to Channel 4. At the height of an attack on Channel 4 in 1987, Pedragosa participated in the failed August 1987 coup attempt. After the 1987 coup attempt, he did not leave his mother unit because he could not produce his gun and radio transceivers. It was also stated in the investigation that Pedragosa was involved in the hold-up at the Philippine Veteran's Hospital in West Avenue, Quezon City in 1988. He was also involved in the robbery of a still unidentified businessman in Makati in 1988, in which they pocketed 80,000 Philippine pesos. [end recording]

Defense Department Issues Shoot To Kill Order

HK0901101191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] The Defense Department and the military issued a shoot to kill order today against all police and military men involved in crime.

According to Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, he is in favor of the implementation of the shoot to kill order against military and police scalawags, who are using their expertise in firearms against civilians. Consequently, Ramos sought the expansion of the definition of heinous crimes to include crime which involves the use of firearms.

It will be recalled that the Department of National Defense has recommended the restoration of the death penalty for heinous crimes such as rape, murder, and drug trafficking. Only recently, the Supreme Court asked Congress to speed up the passage of the said bill. According to Ramos, any law enforcement member can shoot any police or military scalawag caught in the act of committing a crime. The action is aimed at preventing civilians from being victimized. He also said the order will help reduce the crime rate. Ramos stated that the police and military scalawags have the capability to inflict damage on properties and lives, citing as an example robbery incidents which were believed to have been carried out by former military and policemen, in which they used high-calibre guns. They also exercise their training in the military and their expertise in the use of firearms against the civilians whom they should be protecting.

Aquino Rejects Strike Ban During Emergency

HK0901033791 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 9 Jan 91 p 1

[By Lito Zulueta and Cherry Velarde with Johanna Son]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday rejected calls to impose a ban on labor and general strikes during the critical period following a shooting war in the Persian Gulf.

Even then, government agencies—particularly the military—were roundly criticized for suggestions to penalize "abuses" by media and to ban strikes.

Sen. Wigberto Tanada and the National Press Club of the Philippines led the complaints against threat to press freedom and the right to strike.

"I have sufficient powers under the Constitution and existing laws to deal with strikes without having to ban them, including compulsory arbitration in appropriate cases," the President said in a statement.

And on suggestions to penalize media abuses, the President and her executive secretary, Oscar Orbos, assured print and broadcast media that the government does not plan to clamp down on freedoms enjoyed by the press amid the crisis brought by the Gulf conflict.

Mrs. Aquino and Secretary Orbos appealed to leaders of print and broadcast media to help the government cope with the crisis by sober and fair reporting.

The President's rejection to ban strikes was interpreted as a rebuff of incoming armed forces chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon and other security officials who are batting for the grant of emergency powers to Mrs. Aquino so she could prohibit strikes and rallies during the crisis.

While assuring the people of their civil liberties even during the crisis, the President served notice she would deal firmly with groups that might take advantage of the crisis to foment violence and destabilize the government.

"I have directed our forces to stand in readiness to defend our people and secure the peace in the event of armed conflict in the Gulf," she said.

Assurances of cooperation were also given the President by leaders from the country's major labor coalitions—the Labor Advisory Consultative Council (Lacc) and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP).

"There will be no strikes if the contingency plans are properly implemented," said Lacc chairman Danilo Edralin.

But the labor leaders declined to promise a unilateral strike moratorium during the period of a full-blown war in the Middle East.

Sen. Ernesto Herrera, chairman of the labor committee, warned the military, which had suggested the strike ban, that its proposal was "myopic and simplistic."

Herrera stressed that the Philippine labor movement was mature enough to cooperate with the government and other sectors during emergencies.

He also opposed proposals by Malacanang to include in the emergency powers bill a provision allowing the President to suspend the implementation of labor laws.

Explaining his stand on media and strike bans, Tanada said: "I find divisive rather than unifying the suggestions to impose sanctions on media and to ban strikes during the emergency, should it occur."

Malacanang, on the other hand, stressed the need for media to present to the public a factual perspective on the Gulf situation, the contingencies being planned by the government, and impressing upon the people the gravity of the situation without unnecessarily making them panic. The National Press Club [NPC], issuing a resolution on the proposed Emergency Powers Act, said the injunction to media was a veiled threat to press freedom.

The NPC resolution read in part: "If it is well-meaning, the injunction is still misplaced and outright superfluous. The record shows that when the nation had a face a series of emergencies arising from natural or man-made calamities in the recent past, the press as an institution required no prodding to do its duty, with promptness, initiative, courage, prudence and responsibility."

Aquino Designates Local 'Chief Action Officers'

HK0901120391 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Statement by President Corazon Aquino at a seminar attended by local government officials; date and place not given—live or recorded; in English]

[Text] As a manifestation of my full trust and confidence in our local government officials' competence, I will issue an executive order designating all governors, city or municipal mayors in their capacity as chairmen of provincial, city, and municipal peace and order councils as chief action officers for the effective implementation of contingency measures to cope with the effects of the Gulf crisis in their respective jurisdictions.

As I authorize and empower all of you to be my action officers in the field, I strongly urge you to harness the energies and the resources of your citizens because in the final analysis, it is not the machinery of government that will spare the [word indistinct] between success and failure in the implementation of our action program. It is people participation and people power, the same spirit of courageousness and love of country which united all of us at EDSA [Epifanio delos Santos Avenue] nearly five years ago.

Thailand

Burmese Students Blow Up Hijacked Trawler

BK0901030391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Jan 91 p A3

[Text] Burmese dissident students have blown up a Bt [baht] 25-million Thai fishing trawler they hijacked opposite Ranong on Dec 29 after its owner failed to pay

a Bt5 million ransom, representatives of the students and the firm that owned the trawler said yesterday.

It was the first known act of violence committed against a Thai vessel by members of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), which forms part of a newly-formed rival government fighting the military regime in Rangoon.

The students freed all 38 crew members, including two Burmese nationals, unharmed before dynamiting the boat, the Daengsiri-udom, on the evening of Jan 3 at 7 pm at an island inside Burmese territorial waters about 200 kms north of Ranong, a fishing town in southern Thailand facing the Andaman Sea.

The trawler, one of the 45 operating for the Ranong-based Narong Canning Co (NCC), was the most sophisticated type of tuna fishing vessel used in Thailand and had been in operation for only a year, according to Xuwicha Hiranyaprueok, the agent of Daengsiri-udom.

Xuwicha said the trawler was seized on the morning of Dec 29 in the Mergui area in the Burmese sea while it was heading for Ranong with 30 tons of catch. The hijackers, who were heavily armed, initially demanded a ransom of Bt1.5 million. They later raised the ransom to Bt5 million, he said.

The students hijacked the boat to Elephenstone island, about 200 km north of Ranong, after dropping the crew off at another island, known as Hayes.

A source in the ABSDF, which is headquartered at Manerplaw, a border area opposite Mae Hong Son, said yesterday the students decided to blow up the boat after their ransom demand was not met and because Burmese government patrols were closing in on them.

"We had no choice. Besides, we did it inside Burmese and not Thai waters," he explained.

He said the students had no intention of harming the Thai crew, whom they released before exploding the trawler. The crew left the Hayes island on an improvised raft and were picked up by a passing Thai trawler.

He claimed that the students were partly angry because NCC notified Burmese authorities about the hijacking.

The incident following a threat by Karen resistance guerrillas to attack all fishing boats operating in Burmese waters under agreements with Rangoon authorities. The threat was made in a statement issued early last month.

NCC is one of the several Thai firms fishing in Burma under concessions granted by Rangoon. But since parts of Burmese waters are controlled by the Karens, many of the trawler operators have to pay special fees, ranging from Bt100,000-200,000 a year, to the minority guerrillas for safe passage.

The students who robbed the trawler were under the command of a self-proclaimed navy commander of the area, Kyaw Ya. The 23-year-old student leader, who conducted the negotiations with the NCC, is said to command a fleet of six armed vessels patrolling the Mergui-Tavoy areas.

Xuwicha said there was a communication breakdown between the students who hijacked the trawler and the NCC during their negotiations, prompting them to destroy the vessels.

He said the students had removed all the sophisticated fishing gear from the trawler before blowing it.

The incident has cast a shadow of fear over the fishing town of Ranong. "They are confused. They don't know what will happen next," he said.

Thai authorities admitted there was little they could do because the incident happened inside Burma.

Burmese students claimed that they have received complaints from local Burmese fishermen that Thai fishing vessels equipped with modern fishing gear are depleting marine life in their areas.

They pointed to the vessel that was blown up as a main culprit because it was the largest and most modern fishing boat operating in their waters.

Bomb Rocks Crime Suppression Commander's Office

BK0901011191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] A Time-Bomb explosion rocked the office of Crime Suppression Division [CSD] Commander Seri Temiyawet at Sam Yot yesterday morning in an unprecedented attack against the head of the Police Department's most powerful unit.

The bomb, made from one pound of TNT and planted on the balcony behind his room, went off some 25 minutes before Pol Maj-Gen [Police Major-General] Seri's arrival for work.

The police officer, widely reputed for his straightforwardness and honesty, was reportedly stuck in a rush hour traffic jam when the bomb exploded at about 7.20 a.m.

The impact from the blast shattered glass window panes of Pol Maj-Gen Seri's office and nearby rooms as well as those of a shop on the opposite side of the road.

Deputy Police Department Chief Gen Sawat Amonwiwat said the attack was aimed more at intimidating the CSD officer than killing him.

Police said the TNT was packed in a cardboard box and contained no metal fragments such as those found in a bomb designed to kill.

Pol Col Seri described the explosion as "brotherly teasing" and said he believed the attack might have stemmed from a conflict of interests caused by his presence at the CSD.

"I have stood in others' way since I have come (to the CSD). I've refused to tolerate CSD policemen who take money from brothels and gambling dens," Pol Maj-Gen Seri said when asked about a possible motive for the attack.

Bomb experts from the police Quartermaster Division found electric wires, dry battery cells and alarm clock parts on the second floor roof shade and on the adjoining parking lot at ground level.

Pol Gen Sawat said it was believed that the bomb could have been thrown from the street below or planted on the balcony.

Concerning the balcony theory, the assailant could have sneaked through Pol Maj-Gen Seri's duty officer's toilet on the second floor and made it to the balcony by way of a toilet window which was next to it.

Footprints were found on the balcony and on the roof of a van parked on the ground-level parking lot under the CSD commander's office.

Immediately after the explosion senior Police Department officers, including Police Chief Sawaeng Thirasawat, travelled to the CSD headquarters to inspect the explosion site.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan took a short break from his duties at the Government House to inspect the scene and was reportedly briefed on the incident by Pol Gen Sawaeng.

Talking to reporters at a party hosted for coalition MPs [members of parliament] at Central Plaza Hotel, last night, Gen Chatchai said that he could not say as yet what was the motive of the attack.

Pol Gen Sawaeng yesterday appointed a 16-man investigation panel headed by Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Maj-Gen Thanu Homhuan to probe the case.

Interior Minister Praman Adireksan said police inveti-gators were yet to report initial findings to him.

The attack could be motivated by several issues and could even be timed for political purposes in view of the fact that Parliament is to debate the Government's policy statement today.

Pol Maj-Gen Seri has also been a serious and tough policeman.

His performance in carrying out his duties might conflict with the interest of certain persons, including his own subordinates, Pol Gen Praman said.

The minister said he was prepared to defend the Police Department and the Interior Ministry if the Opposition was to use the bombing incident to attack the government at today's debate.

Pol Maj-Gen Seri was recently reported to have engaged in a serious conflict with his own immediate boss, Central Investigation Bureau [CIB] Commissioner Bunchu Wangkanon, over a CSD reshuffle scheme.

Pol Lt-Gen Bunchu, however, said he had no personal conflict with the CSD chief.

But he confirmed he disagreed with Pol Maj-Gen Seri's reshuffle proposal. "It's normal for that kind of conflict, but we did not quarrel."

The CIB commissioner denied a recent press report that he had proposed the Police Department investigate Pol Maj-Gen Seri for allegedly using insulting remarks against him during a meeting with CSD officers.

"I am his senior officer and I don't do this kind of thing," Pol Lt-Gen Bunchu said.

The CIB chief said he regretted this kind of incident happened at the CSD, a long-established Police Department unit which had nationwide powers of investigation.

"Pol Maj-Gen Seri is a good man and has been seriously performing his duty. His work can run against the interest of anybody," Pol Lt-Gen Bunchu said.

ASEAN Pledges Oil Supply; EC Praises Athit

BK0901032991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Jan 91 p A2

[Text] ASEAN's oil producing countries have assured Thailand of a maximum crude supply of about 150,000 barrels a day, or about 37 per cent of total imports if the country's crude imports were disrupted by a war in the Gulf, the governor of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) said yesterday.

PTT Governor Anat Aphaphirom said the amount of crude promised by the oil producing members of ASEAN under the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement was hardly enough in a worst-case scenario but it should enable Thailand to cope with an acute shortage of oil supply.

Thailand is now importing more than 400,000 barrels of crude a day and the emergency amount promised by its ASEAN friends would account for about 37-38 per cent of its total imports.

Anat said that Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei promised a daily supply of 80,000 barrels, 60,000 barrels and 10,000 barrels to Thailand respectively in the event that Thailand's crude imports dropped by 20 percent or more.

The three oil producing nations promised the emergency supply during the latest meeting of ASEAN chief executives on petroleum affairs held from Jan 3-4.

—Bangkok-based EC ambassadors praised Foreign Minister Athit Urairat's move to give an all-out support for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in their confrontation with Iraq, a senior Thai official said yesterday.

The 11 envoys from the European Community led by Finland's Ambassador to Thailand Thomas Kasteel paid a courtesy call on Athit at the Foreign Ministry, said Sakthip Krairiksh the Foreign Ministry's spokesman.

"They (the EC envoys) expressed appreciation for Thailand's firm stand in supporting the UN resolution calling for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait," Sakthip quoted the EC envoys as telling Athit.

The EC envoys expressed their "determination" to support Athit's move made during his visit to Saudi Arabia last week (Dec 29-Jan 2) the spokesman said.

Sakthip also denied reports that Athit was boycotted by the ministry's officials who disagreed with Athit's action "Permanent Secretary M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri also defended the foreign minister's move at the National Security Council's meeting on Monday."

The EC envoys also asked Athit in the meeting for extra protection against possible threats to their countries' interests in Thailand as the Jan 15 deadline nears.

Athit said the government is stepping up security and providing protection to the diplomatic community in Bangkok as well as other foreign interests in Thailand, according to the spokesman.

The EC envoys also discussed with the new foreign minister his policy initiative on Burma and Indochina and asked for Athit's clarification on Malaysia's suggestion for East Asian economic cooperation group, whether it was meant to create a new trading bloc, Sakthip said.

Athit assured the EC envoys that Thailand was against the idea of a trade bloc and saw the Malaysian initiative as strengthening trade and economic cooperation in the region.

The foreign minister also met yesterday with Finland's Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio who was on a three-day working visit to Thailand.

Sakthip said the two foreign ministers discussed bilateral relations and the political situation in the region, including Cambodian problem.

Both sides expressed their hope that the war in the Gulf would be avoided through current diplomatic efforts.

More on Meeting With EC Envoys

BK0801145091 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek reported that ambassadors from 12 EC countries called on Foreign Minister Athit Urairat this afternoon to congratulate Athit on his appointment as foreign minister. The ambassadors also expressed their support for Thailand's stand supporting the United Nations Security Council's resolution on the Middle East problem. Meanwhile, some ambassadors, especially the UK ambassador, expressed concern with the security situation and asked Thai authorties to provide protection for embassies and airline offices of EC countries. The foreign minister reaffirmed that he would try his best in this regard.

Touching on promotion of bilateral trade relations, the foreign minister said countries that lack money can trade through barter, such as bartering rice for fertilizer or bartering rice for steel. As a result, any country interested in the barter system can talk with us on this.

In addition, ambassadors of the EC countries also asked what the form of the proposed ASEAN economic cooperation will be. The foreign minister explained that this is an initiative of Malaysia. The Malaysian ambassador had explained to him that the Malaysian proposal is not for an economic group, but for economic cooperation in order to map out stances at the regional level.

Editorials View Gulf Crisis, Middle East Policy

BK0901060191

[Editorial Report] Two Thai-language papers, THAI RAT and NAEO NA, on 7 January carry editorials on Foreign Minister Athit Urairat's foreign policy toward the Gulf crisis and the government's evacuation plan for Thai workers in the middle east.

Bangkok THAI RAT in thai on 7 January on page 3, in an 800-word editorial entitled "Thailand's Stand," says that it is regrettable that there is a conflict between the foreign minister and the supreme commander over Thailand's stand on the Gulf crisis. News reports on this conflict were spread worldwide, affecting Thailand's credibility in the world. "It will take a long time before Thailand can regain its credibility." We assumed that Foreign Minister Athit Urairat, after thorough consideration, realized that it was necessary to express the stand promptly and clearly with the world majority. He offered to send a team of F-5 technicians to help in Saudi Arabia and even discussed buying F-5 aircraft from Saudi Aarabia.

Although all parties concerned in the country agree with this stand, they consider it a mistake by the foreign minister, because he did not consult with the prime minister first. This has prompted criticism from Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong, although he might also agree with the stand.

However, we disagree with the supreme commander's method and steps that the dispatch of aircraft technicians to help Saudi Arabia requires consideration by the National Security Council and approval by the House of Representatives because this is not an announcement of war.

In conclusion, the editorial says that "Thailand has lost its credibility because the world community does not know which side Thailand stands on. The military and the government should consult together as soon as possible and present a clear stand to the world. Ambiguous policy is obsolete."

Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai on 7 January on page 4, in a 700-word editorial entitled "It Is Necessary To Save the Lives of the Thai People," says that "there is no time for the politicians to quarrel. It is important that we take measures to assist the lives of the Thai people who are facing the Persian Gulf war, although they have nothing to do with it."

The editorial says that the evacuation plan for the Thai workers in the Middle East is just a plan on paper. Implementation of the plan is carried out slowly. There is no coordination among the agencies concerned. The National Security Council is scheduled to meet on 7 January to discuss Thailand's stand on the Gulf situation. Officials of several other agencies are also scheduled to meet on 9 or 10 January. A Thai medical team will leave for Saudi Arabia to look after the Thai workers on 12 January, just three days before the deadline for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. All in all, nobody knows when the agencies concerned will begin to evacuate the Thai workers to safety areas, how many officials and what kind of vehicles and equipment are needed for the evacuation, and whether or not we are ready to cope with any possible obstacles. What the Thai people, especically relatives of the workers, know these days are only assurances given by politicians through television and newspaper reports that the evacuation will be successful. Sometimes, politicians even expressed confidence that there will be no war.

The editorial concludes by saying that these are assurances clearly based on negligence, although the lives of our brothers are worth more than the show of eloquence and boasts by the politicians. These politicians will not be pardoned if there is any danger to the Thai workers in the Middle East."

Prime Minister Meets South Korean Legislators

SK0901015291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Bangkok, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan told visiting South Korean parliamentarians Tuesday that he wanted to visit Seoul in February or early March.

Chatchai reminded Rep. Pak Chong-su, delegation head and chairman of the National Assembly foreign affairs and unification committee, that he had already accepted an invitation from President No Tae-u.

"Thailand is willing to welcome the advancement of Korean enterprises," he said. "Some Korean companies, including Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co., failed to receive orders for Thai development projects in the past because they misselected their partners."

Korea can take advantage of Thailand as a stepping stone into Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, Chatchai said, explaining his policy that Indochina should be transformed from a battlefield into a market.

He also pledged positive support for the success of the third general meeting of the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation in Seoul in October and said he appreciated Seoul's painstaking efforts to expedite exchanges and dialogue between South and North Korea.

Army Commanders Gather in 'Show of Loyalty'

BK0901011391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] About 100 army regiment commanders gathered at the army golf course in Bang Khen district yesterday in what was seen as a major show of loyalty to army chief General Suchinda Khraprayun.

The gathering of the regiment commanders from across the country was organised under the country was organised under the slogan: "100 regiments from afar are spiritually united under the one and only boss."

Never before had the army been "challenged" in so many ways until Gen Suchinda became Army commander-in-chief, but the army has "honorably and proudly resisted those challenges," said 11th infantry regiment commander Kon Wanakamon on behalf of all the regiment commanders.

Col Kon said the regiment commanders will continue to unite, strictly obey and follow orders of the army chief and stand by him under all circumstances.

Gen Suchinda laughed when a reporter quoted Col Kon as saying the regiment commanders have more faith in him than in any former army chiefs.

He did not comment, but told the reporter to ask the regiment commanders about that instead.

Gen Suchinda said yesterday's gathering of the regiment commanders meant nothing more than an ordinary get-together at the golf course and this event was not related to anything else.

The regiment commanders asked for some blessings from Gen Suchinda on occasion of the New Year.

The army chief also lunched with the regiment commanders.

Also present among the gathering of the regiment commanders were army deputy chief Itsaaphong Nunphakdi, army assistant chief Wimon Wongwanit, army chief-of-staff Wirot Saengsanit, First Region commander San Siphen, Second Region commander Phaibun Hongsinlak, Third Region commander Phairot Chan-urai and a representative of Fourth Region commander Yutthana Yaemphan.

Vietnam

Localities Discuss Party Draft Documents

BK0901070591

[Editorial Report] Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese at 0500 GMT on 7 January carries an under-one-minute report saying that "The Hau Giang provincial party committee recently held two discussions among party members and key cadres of sectors and branches to extensively study and contribute ideas to the two draft documents of the upcoming Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress." Those who participated in the discussions heard the text of the draft documents, and discussed and contributed many ideas to these documents.

In another under-one-minute report, Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese at 1100 GMT on 7 January says that "the Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone on 7 January held a conference of key cadres to introduce and study the draft report on the party-building task and on revision of party regulations as well as the revised draft party regulations. So far, 80-90 percent of party members from grass-roots units of the special zone have contributed ideas to the draft documents. Moreover, 30-70 percent of the people from agencies, enterprises, and other mass societies have expressed viewpoints on documents of the Seventh CPV Congress." The special zone continues to see that sectors and establishments discuss and contribute more ideas to these party documents.

In a related topic, Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese at 2300 GMT on the same day carries a 12-minute article by station correspondent Truong Cong Hoa, entitled "Da River Residents and the Party's Draft Platform," giving an account of work completed at the construction site of the Da River hydroelectric power project in 1990 and some ideas contributed to the party draft documents by workers at the site. The article says "in the recent discussion to contribute ideas to the two draft documents of the party, many engineers, technicians, managerial cadres, and workers of the construction site expressed their views on the party documents." They said that the draft platform on socialist construction in the transition period is a scientific document suitable to our country's unique conditions. The article says "no one expressed objection to the two-party draft documents and not a single person showed doubt about the party leadership over the current renovation cause and the socialist construction in our country at present. The article quotes Le Xuan Phong, a worker at the construction site, as saying that "ours is a Marxist party and as a result it represents and protects the legitimate interests of the workers and other laboring people as well. As production workers, we wholeheartedly support a one-party system, the Communist Party of Vietnam."

Lam Dong Party Committee Discusses 1991 Plan

BK0901080191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The Lam Dong Party Committee has just met to review the implementation of the 1990 plan and to discuss measures for socioeconomic development in 1991.

In 1991 the province will strive to reach 10 main goals including production of 135,000 tonnes of grain; a seven-percent increase in agricultural production from last year; continuation of planting long-term industrial trees, mainly the mulberry tree, and ensuring the planting of 3,000 new hectares of mulberry trees every year; 25-percent increase in export value; attempting to contribute 18 to 20 percent of the national income to the national budget; decreasing the population growth from 2.3 percent to 2.1 percent; assuring adequate provision of the five basic goods to the mountainous people; adjusting habitat areas and production direction of some areas including new economic zones suitable to the natural conditions and the traditions of the local people.

Hanoi Party Committee Reviews 1990 Tasks

BK0901082191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The Hanoi municipal party committee on 5 January held a conference to review the organization work in 1990 and to evaluate the implementation of directives No. 19 and 20.

Last year, implementing the policy on streamlining managerial mechanism, the municipality reduced the number of its administrative offices from 15 to seven; and offices of sectors and branches at wards, districts, and cities from 23 to 12.

Regarding the efforts to purify the party and oppose corruption, 110 of the total 120 weak basic party organizations have been consolidated and strengthened. They are now striving to surge forward to achieve results. The municipal organization work in 1991 includes efforts to satisfactorily make preparations for the party organization congresses at various levels; continue to implement directives No. 19 and 20; improve operation of production and business establishemnts at wards, districts, and cities; transfer the control of production and business units by the municipal people's committee to other assigned offices; and revise and supplement the cadre managerial regulations to suit the new situation.

Nguyen Co Thach Talks to Canadian Minister

BK0901084791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] From 5 to 7 January 1991, Minister of Foreign Trade John Crosbie, his wife, the Canadian ambassador to Vietnam, and some high-level government officers paid an official visit to Vietnam.

The delegation visited Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Co Thach talked to the minister and the delegation on bilateral relations and mutual issues in a friendly and understanding atmosphere.

The two sides expressed wishes to increase the friendly and cooperative relations for the benefit of the two countries' people.

On 7 January 1991, Minister Crosbie left Vietnam for home.

Seminar Held on Health of Returning Refugees

BK0701152691 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 7—A seminar on the result of medical examination of Vietnamese nationals, who voluntarily returned home in the past two years, was held in Hanoi on January 3-4 jointly by the Vietnamese Ministries of Public Health, Interior, Foreign Affairs, and Labour-War Invalids and Social Affairs, and the representative office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR).

Over the past two years, Vietnam has received more than 7,000 such voluntary returnees who had illegally fled the country to four neighbouring countries. Most of them have been given health check-ups, on which 12 reports were delivered at the seminar confirming high rates of contraction of skin diseases, other infections diseases such as tuberculosis and syphilis, and many serious illnesses.

The seminar raised concrete recommendations to both the Vietnamese Government and concerned international organizations to provide adequate facilities for the treatment of those patients at local medical establishments in the country.

Nghe Tinh Carries Out Discipline for Corruption

BK0901104891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Reporting on the initial results obtained by Nghe Tinh in implementing Decision 240 of the Council of Ministers on countering corruption, the Nghe Tinh paper carried an article by Ba Tam saying that by the end of December 1990 Nghe Tinh Province had taken action against more than 2,940 people, including 135 cadres who were dismissed from their positions. The province turned over to investigative and judicial organs for further legal action the files of 50 cases involving numerous suspects. The province also recovered 11.575 billion dong and 19,640 tonnes of paddy for the state.

Ho Chi Minh City Police Curb Contraband Goods

BK0701110691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] On the early morning of 4 January, patrol unit no. 5 of the Ho Chi Minh City marine police discovered and stopped an aquatic product enterprise's fishing trawler nameplated "Bien Dong 501" for carrying contraband goods. The event took place about 20 nautical miles offshore from Saigon Port. Its skipper, Le Van Ngoc, 30, was arrested with 199 boxes of goods.

In a preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the contraband goods included watches, color televisions, video tape recorder heads and cameras, color film, spare motorcycle parts, and cosmetics valued at several billion dong.

Le Van Ngoc told the authorities that he was paid 6 million dong to carry these goods from Vung Tau to Ho Chi Minh City. He, however, refused to reveal the owner of the goods. The responsible agencies are making an urgent investigation to find out the origin of these contraband goods.

Joint Venture Yields 2.7 Million Tonnes of Oil

BK0901081791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] In 1990 the joint Vietnam-USSR Oil and Natural Enterprise extracted 2.7 million metric tonnes of oil, an increase of 1.2 million tonnes from last year and equal to 108 percent of the yearly plan.

In 1990, together with the oil extraction, the enterprise carried out surveying and drilling for a total of 53,560 meters, including over 6,000 meters of drilling. The enterprise achieved 110 percent of the yearly plan.

Through drilling, the enterprise discovered some pockets in Dai Hung well with substantial oil deposits.

The enterprise completed 11 oil wells with nine of them put into production, thereby increasing oil output from 8,000 to 9,000 tonnes per day.

In 1991 the enterprise will strive to increase output to 3.3 million tonnes and put the Dai Hung well into operation.

Taiwan-Ho Chi Minh City Container Line Opens

BK0901063491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The Southern Container Enterprise opened a transport line from Taiwan to Ho Chi Minh City. On 29

December 1990, the first trip carried 47 containers from Taiwan to Ho Chi Minh City then went to Bangkok and returned to Taiwan.

In the last year, the enterprise invested 465 million dong in building and preparing 14,000 square meters of containers' storage area with the storage capacity of 1,000 containers. It also invested 210 million dong from its own capital to replace the containers' crane.

Acting as agent for the USSR and German transport companies, in the last year, the enterprise overfulfilled the plan by handling more than 6,500 containers.

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